



UF College of Liberal
Arts and Sciences
Department of English
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

LIT 3003: Forms of Graphic Narratives

Instructor: Logan Schell

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Office Hours: Monday / Wednesday 11:00-12:00 PM Turlington 4335 or 4355

Classroom: TUR 2303

Class Meeting Days/Times: M, T, W, R, F 12:30-1:45 PM

Period: 4

Course Description

This course examines how comics allow for individual expression of real and imagined storytelling, focusing on how different forms of comics and graphic novels communicate. These forms are often categorized: American superhero, Japanese manga, Franco-Belgian bande dessinée, and so on. But even though the forms differ radically, they all use the “language” of comics.

To learn this language, we will study comics scholarship by Scott McCloud, R.C. Harvey, Thierry Groensteen and others. It will help us examine how comics work, and it will reveal a “connective tissue” that binds the very different forms within the comics medium, across languages and cultures. In short, we will study theories tailored specifically to comics. As comics scholar Frederick Aldama argues, “we need to take our pleasure in the study of comics on their own terms.”

Finally, we will analyze, discuss, and write about what makes comics unique in a diversity of global environments and media.

The work of the course will likely include daily and weekly responses to assigned readings, and one major research paper.

Outcomes

By the end of LIT 3003, students will be able to

- Identify and understand formal elements of comics.
- Understand elements of genre and how they exist in different forms of media.
- Analyze and adapt to the constraints of specific rhetorical situations, including audiences, purposes, and uses
- Develop strategies for addressing multiple audiences by utilizing multimodal communication
- Strategically orchestrate elements of document design and layout, including type, spacing, color, and medium

Required Texts and Materials

Kindle Unlimited Subscription

Kindle Comixology Subscription

McCloud, Scott. *Understanding Comics : [the Invisible Art]*. 1st HarperPerennial ed., HarperPerennial, 1994.

Groensteen, Thierry. *The System of Comics*. 1st ed., University Press of Mississippi, 2007.

Additional readings will be posted on Canvas.

Grading & Course Credit Policies

Grading for this course will be rigorous. If an assignment illustrates disregard for spelling, grammar, citation guidelines, or a general carelessness in the writing, the assignment will be failed. Do not rely on your instructor for copy-editing, even on drafts.

The writing assignments for this course are designed to meet the minimum requirements of the University Writing Requirement credit. To satisfy this requirement, **every** assignment's word count must be fulfilled. **Submitted assignments short of the minimum word count will receive zero credit.**

Grading Scale

| | | | | | | | |
|----|------|--------|----------|----|------|-------|---------|
| A | 4.0 | 94-100 | 940-1000 | C | 2.0 | 74-76 | 740-769 |
| A- | 3.67 | 90-93 | 900-939 | C- | 1.67 | 70-73 | 700-739 |
| B+ | 3.33 | 87-89 | 870-899 | D+ | 1.33 | 67-69 | 670-699 |
| B | 3.0 | 84-86 | 840-869 | D | 1.0 | 64-66 | 640-669 |
| B- | 2.67 | 80-83 | 800-839 | D- | 0.67 | 60-63 | 600-639 |
| C+ | 2.33 | 77-79 | 770-799 | E | 0.00 | 0-59 | 0-599 |

Assignment Descriptions (Total Points Possible: 1000)

Daily Discussion Posts x20 200 points

Students will write short responses (250-350 words) to assigned daily readings.

Weekly Responses x 5 200 points

Students will write responses (500-750 words) to the week's readings as a whole.

Classroom Discussion Participation 100 points

Students will rigorously participate in daily discussion with their peer groups and with the class as a whole.

Annotated Bibliography 400 Points

Students will work together in groups to create an annotated bibliography regarding one specific, narrow topic relating to form in one of the genres of comics discussed in the course.

Presentations 100 Points

Students will present on their findings in the annotated bibliography assignment. Groups will choose one article as a lens or point of interaction, and students will connect back to that specific article during their presentations.

Extra Credit

Up to 25 points of extra credit on the annotated bibliography can be earned if the entire group's assignment and presentation exceed expectations.

Course Policies

Class Work

You must complete all assignments to receive credit for this course. Classroom activities and peer reviews cannot be made up without **written documentation** from a relevant UF department. Late work will not be permitted without documentation from a UF department and the written permission from instructor.

Attendance

Attendance is required. If a student misses more than **three periods** unexcused, a letter grade penalty will be applied. After **five periods** of unexcused absences, the student will fail the entire course.

- In the synchronous + asynchronous format, those **five missed periods** apply to the synchronous meetings. The asynchronous lessons and activities will have point values attached to them and missing them will affect the student's final grade.

The exemptions from this policy are **only** those absences involving university-sponsored events, such as athletics and band, and religious holidays. Absences related to university-sponsored events must be discussed with the instructor **prior** to the date that will be missed. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this class are consistent with university policies that can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Please note: If students are absent, it is their responsibility to make themselves aware of all due dates. If absent due to a scheduled event, students are still responsible for turning assignments in on time.

Tardiness: If students enter class after roll has been taken, they are late, which disrupts the entire class. Two instances of tardiness count as one absence. This applies to the synchronous classes. Make sure you join the class early enough to correct any technological issues you encounter.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious violation of the Student Honor Code. The Honor Code prohibits plagiarism and defines it as follows:

Plagiarism. A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.
2. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student.

University of Florida students are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the entire Student Honor Code, which can be found at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/students/student-conduct-code/>.

Important Tip: You should never copy and paste something from the Internet without providing the exact location from which it came.

Classroom Behavior

Please keep in mind that students come from diverse cultural, economic, and ethnic backgrounds. Some of the texts we will discuss and write about engage controversial topics and opinions. Diversified student backgrounds combined with provocative texts require that you demonstrate respect for ideas that may differ from your own. Disrespectful behavior will result in dismissal, and accordingly absence, from the class.

Cellphones and other technology are not allowed in the classroom without permission from instructor. Students who operate technology without permission or outside parameters given for use **will be counted absent for the day.**

When attending class via Zoom, there are a few guidelines we expect you to follow.

- Avoid distractions during class time. Close unnecessary apps and put your phone away. Attend from an area with no distractions. (If circumstances require you to work from an area with distractions, let your instructor know. For example, if you have to share a room with family, let your teacher know that your mom might be walking in the background or your brother is doing his class at the dining room table at the same time.)
- Make sure that whatever is visible (your attire, the background) is reasonable for class. Would you wear it to class? Would you show that poster in class? Would you bring that pile of dirty clothes to class?
- Zoom requirements: During class, you are expected to be visible to the instructor and be able to communicate with the instructor by audio or writing in the chat box.

UF's policy on Sexual Harassment

The University of Florida is committed to providing a safe educational, working, and residential environment that is free from sexual harassment or misconduct directed towards any and all members of the community: <https://titleix.ufl.edu/about/title-ix-rights/>

In-Class Work

Active participation is a crucial part of success in this class. Students will be expected to work in small groups and participate in group discussions, writing workshops, peer reviews, and other in-class activities. Be prepared for unannounced quizzes or activities on the readings or classroom discussion. Students must be present for all in-class activities to receive credit for them. In-class work cannot be made up. Writing workshops require that students provide constructive feedback about their peers' writing. In general, students are expected to contribute constructively to each class session.

Paper Maintenance Responsibilities

Students are responsible for maintaining duplicate copies of all work submitted in this course and retaining all returned, graded work until the semester is over. Should the need arise for a resubmission of papers or a review of graded papers, it is the student's responsibility to have and to make available this material.

Mode of Submission

Papers and drafts are due at the beginning of class or online at the assigned deadline. Late papers will not be accepted. Failure of technology is not an excuse.

All papers will be submitted as MS Word (.doc, .docx) documents to Canvas. Final drafts should be polished and presented in a professional manner. All papers must be in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins and pages numbered.

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Writing Studio

The University Writing Studio is located in Turlington 2215 and is available to all UF students. Free appointments can be made up to twice a week. They are currently offering online appointments. See <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> to learn more.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Students in Distress

For guidance during distressing situations, please contact U Matter We Care or the Dean of Students Office. They can help students navigate resources and academic procedures for personal, medical, and academic issues.

U Matter We Care: <http://umatter.ufl.edu>, umatter@ufl.edu, 352-294-2273 (CARE)
 Dean of Students: <https://dso.ufl.edu/>, 202 Peabody Hall, (352) 392-1261
 Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 3190 Radio Road, (352) 392-1575
 Field and Fork Pantry: <https://fieldandfork.ufl.edu/>, located near McCarty B, 352-294-2208
 Student Health Care Center: <http://shcc.ufl.edu/>, multiple locations, (352) 392-1161

Grading Policies

For information on UF Grading policies, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Schedule of Classes and Assignments

This schedule is only a guide and is subject to change.

Unit One:

| Date | Reading / Activity | Assignment |
|-------------------------|--|------------|
| Week 1 | | |
| Monday 7/3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course overview Read the Syllabus and Due Dates Read Read | |
| Tuesday 7/4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independence Day—NO CLASS | |
| Wednesday 7/5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read <i>Understanding Comics</i> (chapters 1-5) | |
| Thursday 7/6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read <i>Understanding Comics</i> (Chapters 6-9) | |
| Friday 7/7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read R.C. Harvey <i>The Art of the Comic Book</i> Chapter ____ on Canvas | |

| Date | Reading / Activity | Assignment |
|------|--------------------|------------|
|------|--------------------|------------|

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|---|---|--|
| Week 2 Monday 7/10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>The System of Comics</i> • Read The Incal: Digital Omnibus | |
| Tuesday 7/11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>The System of Comics</i> • Read The Incal | |
| Wednesday 7/12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>System of Comics</i> • Read The Incal | |
| Thursday 7/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Roland Barthes • Read Asterix and the Golden Sickle (Asterix) Kindle Edition • | |
| Friday 7/14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Roland Barthes (on Canvas) | |

| Date | Reading / Activity | Assignment |
|---|--|-------------------|
| Week 3 Monday 7/17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Postema • Read Uzumaki | |
| Tuesday 7/18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Postema • Read Uzumaki | |
| Wednesday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Postema • Read Uzumaki | |

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| 7/19 | | |
| Thursday 7/20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Gon (On Canvas) • Read True Beauty 1-5 | |
| Friday 7/21 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Charles Hatfield (on Canvas) | |

| Date | Reading / Activity | Assignment |
|---|--|-------------------|
| Week 4 Monday 7/24 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Neil Cohn • Read A Contract with God | |
| Tuesday 7/25 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Neil Cohn • Read Palestine | |
| Wednesday 7/26 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Neil Cohn • Read Palestine | |
| Thursday 7/27 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Palestine • Read Neil Cohn | |
| Friday 7/28 | | |

| Date | Reading / Activity | Assignment |
|---|--|--|
| Week 5 Monday 7/31 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Miodrag (Ebook on Proquest) • Read Action Comics #1 • Read Doom Patrol #121 | |
| Tuesday 8/1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Miodrag • Read Days of Future Past | |
| Wednesday 8/2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Stan Lee • Read Spawn Origins Collection Vol. 1 Issues 1-3. | |
| Thursday 8/3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Stan Lee • Hawkeye (2012) #19 • Read Astro City (on Canvas) | |
| Friday 8/4 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Withdrawal DEADLINE |

| Date | Reading / Activity | Assignment |
|--|---|---|
| Week 6 Monday 8/7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • | |
| Tuesday 8/8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibliography Due |

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|--------------------------------|---|--|
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| Wednesday 8/9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentations | |
| Thursday 8/10 | | |
| Friday 8/11 | | |