



Huron

English and Cultural Studies 2091F 550 - Autumn 2022
Graphic Fantastic: Reframing (in) Comics and Graphic Storytelling

Class Meetings: Monday 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm and Wednesday 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm

Location: HC-W108

Instructor: Dr. Laura Pearson

Email: laura.pearson@huron.uwo.ca

Office: V209

Office Hours: Mondays 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm and by appointment.

Email me for an appointment at the above email, or I can also be reached at lapears2@uwo.ca.



Commedia dell'Arte A project for Artforum by Charles Burns

Source: <https://www.artforum.com/print/199103/charles-burns-a-project-for-artforum-33884>

Course Description:

This course immerses students in the study of a variety of contemporary graphic narratives with the overall objective of becoming better students of image-text meaning-making practices. To this end, our course engages with comics and graphic fiction scholarship from around the globe. We will apply a range of perspectives, looking at specific kinds of cultural, historical, and formal relationships.

We will also examine the multimodal elements of graphic texts – their potentials and their controversies – and we will ask how they challenge us to consider broader questions about accessibility and activism, memoir and literature, and the sometimes “invisible” yet highly impactful powers of reframing cultural and individual storytelling practices and in what ways.

*** Please note that this is an interactive course. This means that the course requires your participation in both in-class and out-of-class assignments. Your involvement in all aspects of 2091F is the key to your success in this course. Huron’s attendance policy states “Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class . . . On the recommendation of the department and with permission of the dean the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.” Please also see Huron’s Appendix below for more information on academic policies. ***

Required Course Texts:

Readings will be drawn from the list below. Some secondary critical readings and other course reference materials will be posted to our OWL site. Please stay informed through course announcements for any course updates. Some readings deal with difficult subjects; talk to your instructor if you have any concerns and or problems with the course materials.

Art Spiegelman's *The Complete Maus* (1996, includes Volume I and Volume II)

Amruta Patil's *Kari* (2008)

Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas's *Red: A Haida Manga* (2009)

Shaun Tan's *Cicada* (2018)

Ebony Flowers's *Hot Comb* (2019)

Jaako and Lauri Ahonen's *Jaybird* (2012)

Course Learning Objectives:

Through regular participation, by the end of this course, students should not only be better students of graphic fiction, but they should be able to

- employ the critical vocabulary of comics and graphic narrative and discuss key concepts at the intersections of comics studies and graphic storytelling.
- identify and contextualize specific techniques, assumptions, and themes in graphic texts.
- recognize how graphic narratives are distinct from—yet also connected to—other cultural forms, such as visual art, and film and their broader historical contexts.
- improve abilities to construct concise, persuasive arguments through practicing a variety of critical evaluations and interpretive analysis.
- source and analyze relevant critical sources and secondary research in support of original ideas and research creation.

Breakdown of Marks:

All assignments will be accompanied by detailed instructions and discussed in class, week one.

- 1) Class Quizzes (best 5 of 6 – first 5 marks returned by November 7): **20%**
- 2) Formal Essay, Traditional (in MLA format), or Graphic-Essay hybrid (examples will be provided), due by **November 30: 20%**
- 3) Research Presentation (Week 11 & 12): **20%**
- 4) Attendance and participation: **10%**
- 5) Final Exam (TBA): **30%**

Tentative Class Schedule: Students must come to class having already read the text(s) we are studying for that week.

Week One: Introduction and Course Overview (September 12, 14)

Week Two: *Maus* (Vol. 1) (September 19, 21)

Week Three: *Maus* (Vol. II) (September 26, 28)

Week Four: *Kari* (October 3, 5)

Week Five: *Red* (October 12)

Week Six: *Red* (October 17, 19)

Week Seven: *Cicada* (October 24, 26)

Week Eight: Reading week (October 31, November 2)

Week Nine: *Hot Comb* (November 7, 9)

Week Ten: *Jaybird* (November 14, 16)

*****Essays due no later than November 30th, 2022*****

Week Eleven: In-class Research Presentations (1, 2, 3) (November 21, 23)

Week Twelve: In-class Research Presentations (4, 5, 6) (November 28, 30)

*****Essays due no later than November 30th, 2022*****

Week Thirteen: Course Conclusion, Review for Exam and Preparation (December 5, 7)

Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations Fall/Winter 2022

Pandemic Contingency

Huron will continue to follow the guidance of public health and government officials. It is anticipated that there will be no further disruptions to in-person instruction. This is subject to change.

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: [Academic](#)

[Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](http://www.uwo.ca) .The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, tablets, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academic-support.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

- (a) **Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade:
Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising**

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect

documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

b) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising

University Senate policy, which can be found at [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#) requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

c) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca.

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: [accommodation_medical.pdf \(uwo.ca\)](#). Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services at huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>
Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>
Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1>
Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>
Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>
Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Wellness and Health Supports at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. All Huron staff and faculty have received training on responding to disclosures of Gender-Based Sexual Violence (GBSV); students should know that the Community Safety Office is a resource for survivors, providing support and, if desired, guidance while referring them to the further supports that they may require. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca
Community Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca
Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

Western Calendar - Policy Pages -

[Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)