

## *Fall/Winter 2017-2018*

**AP/EN 4220 6.0A (Y)**

### ***Canadian Graphic Novel***

**Course Director:**

Dana Patrascu-Kingsley  
danapk@yorku.ca

**Delivery Format:**

Seminar

**Time:**

Thursdays, 4:00pm - 7:00pm, CC-318

**Description:**

This course explores the Canadian graphic novel. It examines the development of this literary form in Canada and analyzes a range of graphic novels, with a focus on contemporary graphic narratives and the ways in which they can help us explore social issues and personal stories.

There are a number of Canadian cartoonists who tell stories about their own lives, so we will look at how these comics invite us to redefine life writing such as autobiography, diaries, and memoirs in a way that includes visual representations of the self. We will pay particular attention to the idea of embodiment in autographics, and to how gendered and racialized bodies are represented visually in these life stories.

Much of Canadian literature explores various social issues, and so do Canadian graphic novels. In this course will read graphic narratives that provide us with different ways of thinking about some social issues in contemporary Canada, such as murdered Indigenous women, the sex trade, gang violence, the stigma surrounding mental illness, gender inequality, etc. Through various modes of storytelling that engage readers both intellectually and emotionally, graphic narratives invite us to think through these issues in creative ways.

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to a variety of Canadian graphic narratives, and assist them in developing a critical understanding of them. Students will be able to analyze graphic novels, identify recurring themes, and compare and contrast various modes of storytelling employed in comics.

**Category:**

C

**Area:**

1 & 6

**Period:**

NA

**Historical Requirement:**

NA

**Requirements:**

Assignments: essay 2000 words (20%); weekly participation in discussions (15%); final essay 2500 words (25%); presentation (15%)+ written component (10%); 3 short response papers (3x 5%= 15%)

**Reading List:**

Scott McCloud. *Understanding Comics* . 978-0060976255  
Chester Brown, *Paying For It* . Drawn & Quarterly . ISBN-13: 978-1770460485  
Chester Brown. *Louis Riel* . 978-1-894937-89-4  
Alexander Robertson. *Betty: The Helen Betty Osborne Story* . Highwater Press.  
978-1553795445  
Joe Matt. *The Poor Bastard* . Drawn & Quarterly; ISBN-13: 978-1896597447  
Lesley Fairfield. *Tyranny* . Tundra Books. 978-0887769030  
Seth. *The Great Northern Brotherhood of Canadian Cartoonists* . 978-1770460539  
Seth. *It's a Good Life if You Don't Weaken* . ISBN-13: 978-1896597706  
bp Nichol. *Comics* . Talonbooks. 9780889224483  
Mariko Tamaki. *Skim* . 978-0-88899-964-1  
Patti LaBoucane-Benson. *The Outside Circle* . House of Anansi. 978-1770899377  
Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas. *Red: A Haida Manga* . Douglas and McIntyre. 978-  
1771620222  
Cameron Stewart. *Sin Titulo* . Dark Horse Originals. 978-1616552480  
Julie Doucet. *My New York Diary* . Drawn & Quarterly. 978-1896597836  
Bryan Lee O'Malley. *Scott Pilgrim's Precious Little life* . Oni Press. 978-  
1932664089

**Open To:**

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