

Summer 2020

AP/EN 4220 6.0A (SU) Canadian Graphic Novel

Course Director: Dana Patrascu-Kingsley
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Delivery Format: Fully Online

Time: N/A

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 we 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.

Course Learning Objectives

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

Historical Requirement: N/A

Requirements: Assignments: essay 2000 words (25%); weekly participation in forum discussions (25%); final essay 2500 words (30%); response papers (4x 5%= 20%)

Reading List: **TENTATIVE Course Texts / Readings:**
Scott McCloud. *Understanding Comics*. 978-0060976255
Chester Brown. *Louis Riel*. 978-1-894937-89-4
Alexander Robertson. *Betty: The Helen Betty Osborne Story*. Highwater Press. 978-1553795445

Open To: Year 4 Honours