

## ENG 4414: The Auto-graphic Novel

Autumn 2019

### Grading criteria / Assessment

This course is a 10-week Master's seminar consisting mostly of seminar discussion of the course material, with the final grade based on a 10-15 page paper. Most of our discussions this semester centered on: formal aspects of the texts, the complexity of self-representation in comics form; and the theme of trauma and its representation in text and image.

#### Course material

##### *Books*

Scott McCloud, *Understanding Comics*

Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis* (complete)

Joe Sacco, *Footnotes in Gaza*

Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home*

Phoebe Gloeckner, *The Diary of a Teenage Girl*

##### *Articles / theory*

Hillary Chute, "Comics as literature"

Gillian Whitlock, "The Seeing 'I' of comics"

Susan Sontag, excerpts from *Regarding the Pain of Others*

Rebecca Scherr, "Framing human rights" in Sacco's *Footnotes in Gaza*

Dori Laub, excerpts from *Testimony*

Nancy Miller, "The Entangled Self: Genre Bondage in the Age of Memoir"

Fredrick K hler, "Working it through" on Phoebe Gloeckner's work

#### Seminar paper/ exam assignment

*This is from the assignment the students received:*

For this writing assignment, you are required to write a 10-15 page research paper that engages with the course material. You will be writing on a topic of your choice. As to primary texts, you may choose material we covered in class, other books of interest, or a combination of these. You may choose to focus on one text, or compare and contrast two or three texts. Whatever you choose, the most important thing is to have an *argument* or *problem* to pursue, and this "problemstilling" should engage with some of the ideas and theories we covered in the seminar.

The assignment will be split into two parts:

1. PAPER PROPOSAL: Write a short page proposal (500 words) explaining what you will be writing your paper about. Delineate your main argument(s), name your primary text(s), and if possible mention some secondary texts you will use in your paper as well.

DUE: NOVEMBER 11 – upload to Canvas

*\*(Note to external grader: this means that all final topics have been pre-approved)*

2. FINAL PAPER: This will be turned in on Inspira and will constitute the basis for your grade in this seminar. You will turn in at least 10 pp of writing plus a bibliography.  
16 DECEMBER BY 11 AM

Some essentials for the final paper:

- DO NOT include a separate cover page; put your candidate number and date in the top left-hand corner
- Make sure you have a title for your paper, which should be centered
- Indent all paragraphs; DO NOT put an extra space between paragraphs
- Use 10 to 12 pitch font
- 1.5 line spacing
- Number all pages
- **USE AT LEAST FOUR SECONDARY SOURCES beyond your primary text(s) in your paper; do not exceed 10 sources**
- Use MLA, Chicago, or other accepted citation styles
- Include a bibliography page at the end

Assessment criteria:

- As made clear above in the assignment, the paper should be 10-15 pages in standard font with 1.5 line spacing. Going over 15 pages is fine, although handing in a paper that is too short may be grounds for failure.
- Students should include a minimum of 4 secondary sources beyond the primary texts they write about. Too few sources can affect the grade negatively.
- The academic quality/grade of the exam is measured by the common expectations for literature studies:
  1. The level of analytical skills
  2. The student's grasp of the significance of the primary and secondary materials
  3. The student's ability to relate the texts to their central claims / thesis statement
  4. The clarity and organization of their writing (essays should follow standard essay format)
  5. The use of the English language: language should be of good academic quality, with correct grammar and language usage generally. Language counts as part of a total assessment but not given any specific percentage of the final grade.