Introduction to Wordless and Graphic Novels

FRESHMAN SEMINAR

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Course Description

Introduction to Wordless and Graphic Novels will be a one credit course (A-E) that provides students an introduction to wordless and graphic novels. Students will learn to read graphic narratives and will also be introduced to ways to interpret, think about, and write graphic fiction. Students will gain fluency in the elements of visual narrative and modes of critical thinking. Texts will range from cartoons and film, graphic novels, and critical essays to blogs and multimedia. Students will learn to identify cultural and representational trends within these sources and to generate texts showcasing their own perceptions. All students will be expected to engage actively in class. Each class session students will be encouraged in a supportive environment to have fun.
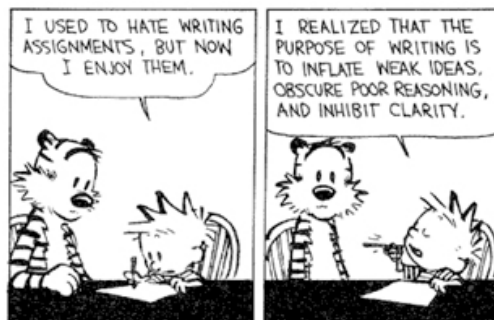
These panels show how comics can convey "a world of ideas" and, at the same time, teach lessons that almost go without notice. Ben Owens (Autumn 2011) says comics not only present an argument but provide two opposing opinions to that argument (the blowhard professor versus the skeptical student). This course extends the premise for how comics work—shown in the two panels above—to graphic narratives, with this understanding:

1. Good academic writing has much in common with good comics.
2. The medium of comics, like that of graphic novels, is one of clarity and compression.
3. Comics and graphic novels convey the largest amount of information in the smallest space possible.

Our one-credit (A-E) freshman seminar on wordless and graphic novels will introduce the genre in a 7-week term. Our study will develop students' textual and visual literacy and provide a framework for modes of reading and interpretation. Much of the work this term will take place in the classroom. Students will have the opportunity to collaboratively develop literary works from concept to finished

product (including the opportunity to build from experiences in the classroom). In terms of development tools, students will explore well-known tech tools (such as *iMovie* and PowerPoint), as well as new programs to create original compositions using photo-capture and images, video, audio, music, and text. The course has been designed for students interested in literary studies, composition, film studies, and art/design (illustration, sound, and graphics).

Course Assignments

Assignments and readings will be available online (**CARMEN**) and in a custom text. See **schedule** passed out in class and via email **confirmation** for up-to-date listing of assignments and due dates.

Course Objectives (protocols, class expectations, and methodology)

This English class has been designed to refine students' ability to read, think, and write: we will discuss writing strategies, modes of interpretation, and effective writing models. Critical reasoning and the ability to interpret literary models—the ability to understand audience, context, and how to formulate responses to wordless texts and graphic novels using effective writing strategies—will be key in the learning process. Students will refine authorial voice. The short films and readings will provide a jumping off point for intensive writing practice.

Generally speaking, English classes require a great deal of discussion and participation. Keeping pace with assignments will allow students to participate actively. Readings will be short. Students may be expected to manage more than one assignment on any given day. A small assignment will be due on most class days (1-2 pp. average; 2+ days for development); larger assignments will average 7-14 days before completion. Students may be asked to complete immediate written responses to readings/prompts, participate in peer review, and provide feedback in online collaborative spaces. Students will be expected to read responsibly and think critically.

This Seminar will provide two core learning outcomes:

a) Students will learn to communicate using the conventions of academic discourse
b) Students will learn to read and compose original texts critically and analytically.

There will be two types of assignments: a) written responses to readings/prompts and b) media-based projects (including blog, PowerPoint, iMovie, comic sequence, script, graphic novel, or visual narrative). Students will be expected to gain fluency in modes of written and visual composition.

Required Tools

- ✓ Course Overview and Syllabus
- ✓ Email account
- ✓ Access to the Internet (available via computer labs on campus)
- ✓ **MLA –** Students are encouraged to use an online resource such as **the MLA Citation Generator < https://www.refme.com/us/citation-generator/mla/ >** for internal citations and Works Cited. Other options include: MSWord's Citations & Bibliography (under "References" tab), EasyBib, etc.

Texts

- ➢ Tan, Shaun. *The Arrival*. New York: Arthur A. Levine Books, 2007. ISBN: 0439895294   (Digital Project)
- ➢ *HANDBOOK* (custom print).

Students should have access to a text for checking style and grammar (reference).

Model texts feature low cost and user-friendly design. E.g.,

Diana Hacker's *A Pocket Style Manual* (Bedford/St. Martin's); any Hacker-authored text will provide a highly valuable reference tool.
(See Amazon.com)

Strunk, William and E. B. White. *The Elements of Style*
(Original publication free online at < www.bartleby.com > ; any print edition.)

BACKUP POLICY

Our class will write daily. Many assignments may require a computer be brought to class. As a rule, students are encouraged to save and back up files often (e.g., email to your student account, cloud, or flash drive). Computers and portable devices fail; backpacks may be lost or stolen. If working as a team, all members should have access to electronic and/or hard copies of the assignment. Groups will upload "screen shots" of collaboration spaces. Numerous written assignments will be due uploaded to the *CARMEN* repository by 11:59 PM. Track confirmation of all submissions by date and time.

- ✓ Assignments uploaded or turned in to the Course Instructor late or in "corrupt" or improper format will be subject to penalty. Wrong file format (mandatory upload in .doc/.docx) and improperly submitted files may receive, at the Instructor's discretion, **no credit** (e.g., quizzes, take-home exam). No exceptions.

- ✓ Please visit The Ohio State University's OIT website for download instructions pertaining to Site Licensed Software, including Adobe Acrobat (plus Creative Cloud) and Microsoft Word (multiple platforms): https://ocio.osu.edu/software. Students will be expected to purchase and install software to ensure compatibility or convert to proper format in the Digital Union or library computers.

- ✓ Assignments with a tech component (e.g., u.osu.edu, Poster Sessions, Literary Adaptation Project) may be fast-started in the Digital Union spaces on campus. Staff will be able to troubleshoot and provide tech help and feedback.

Internet, On-campus Access (log-in), Carmen, and Technology problems may be addressed by visiting the BuckeyeBar (Thompson Library, lower level). The IT Service Desk offers 24 hour support, seven days a week, for our inbound contact channels 8help@osu.edu and (614)688-4357 (8-HELP).

✓ See learning objectives, turn-in instructions, and preliminary due dates in the daily schedule. Any changes to these specifications will be shown in the Carmen Dropbox (information in the dropbox will outline file turn-in, learning objectives and expectations, due date, etc.).

> IMPORTANT NOTE: On **second button click** Carmen confirms upload and proper submission.

✓ Laptop/Mobile tech note: the 18th Avenue Library has 24 hour access for students and has scanners and Mac computers with Adobe Photoshop and other tools for student use. More resources and tech help will be available at the Digital Union labs on campus. Students may also phone (614)688-HELP with internet, Carmen, and technology and software questions. If interested, Adobe programs (including Photoshop) are available for purchase at a discount in the Tech Hub (Tuttle Garage) computer store.

✓ Contact Instructor with any questions about submissions < ryan.3@osu.edu >. Most submissions this term will be .doc/.docx (MSWord).

Grade Breakdown (A-E Letter Grade)

- Students will work independently and collaborate on multimedia projects in class (**30%**);

- Students will participate in class discussion (**20%**);

- Students will take quizzes and complete writings (based on wordless and graphic novels) and readings (**30%**);

- Students will design, create, and self-publish in a webspace < u.osu.edu > to showcase their major efforts during the term. They will briefly present the *e-folio* (composite works) in a poster session and facilitated conversation that ends the term (**20%**).

Attendance

Students will be awarded one "grace" absence per term. If the student has unexcused absence(s), penalty to the student's earned grade on late and missing assignments will be reflected in overall course grade (at the discretion of the Instructor). Subsequent absence(s) may result in additional penalty. Only University mandated excuses, death in the immediate family, or medically excused absences will be accepted. Absences **must be documented** by a professor or a doctor; otherwise, absences will be listed as unexcused. In-class activities that take place when the student has an unexcused absence will be recorded as "no credit" grades.

Class Participation

The following activities will factor into your class participation grade: Students will be expected to participate actively in class. In class discussions, students will be expected to make independent contribution(s). Students will participate in editing and peer review, team and group activities, multimedia projects, and Student-Instructor conferences. Absences and late arrivals will result in a lower class participation grade, at the discretion of the Course Instructor.

> ➢ **Classroom Community Policy —** Everyone should feel welcome, respected and safe in the classroom. In this class, discussion of readings, ideas, and your writing are at the center of everything we do. We will frequently work with sensitive issues and these issues demand that we discuss and interact with respect and maturity.

> ➢ **Tardy Policy —** Students should be on time and prepared for each class session. Students should stay the duration of the session. Should late arrival or early departure from class be necessary, students should get permission from the Course Instructor. Students are permitted two "grace" late arrivals (counted as tardy starting at roll call). Any quizzes or in-class activities missed by late arrival will be scored "zero" credit. Students are solely responsible for learning course content. It will not be the responsibility of the Instructor. Collaborative spaces and groups have been set up to help facilitate sharing and knowledge acquisition. Unexcused late arrivals to class will lower the student's final grade in the course, at the discretion of the Course Instructor.

> ➢ **Assignment Policy —** Please turn in any assignments due before missed classes. In-class assignments missed due to excused absence may be made up, at the discretion of the Course Instructor. Students will not be able to make up for missed in-class activities.

Writing Submission Guidelines

All writing assignments should be computer printed or submitted electronically in standard 10 or 12 pt. font (e.g., Arial, Calibri, Times New Roman). Follow the **MLA Style Guid**e. Essays should be single-sided, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, info block, and descriptive title:

Joe Cool
Freshman Seminar, AU'17
Instructor: Cathy Ryan, PhD
Assignment: Graphic Narrative ("White Collar")
September 25, 2017

<div align="center">Descriptive Title</div>

    Text here.

E-submissions to CARMEN and any computer-generated assignments submitted in class should be double-spaced with one-inch margins in 10- or 12-point typeface, unless otherwise instructed. Submit "clean" copy (i.e., proofread draft copies carefully). *No hand-written copies accepted*.

Hard copies of assignments (e.g., material for class discussion) should be single-sided printing and stapled before students arrive at class.

❖ If you are to miss a class session, I encourage all students to turn in paper copy or electronic submission to < ryan.3@osu.edu > **before the deadline** to avoid penalty. (See policy immediately below.)

**Late assignments and missed activities affect class participation and course grade.

NOTE TO STUDENTS: Your success and that of your peers depends on your active and regular participation in all class discussions and activities. Be prepared. Have fun this term!

Late penalty (assignment turn-in)

Please do not hesitate to contact the Course Instructor before class on days absent. It will be the student's responsibility to submit assignments before the due date. Students will also be expected to secure notes or information from in-class activities for missed classes.

Class Cancellation Policy

In the unlikely event due to emergency, students will be contacted via email. A note will be placed on the door. I will contact you as soon as possible following the cancellation to let you know what will be expected of you that day and assignment(s) due for our next class meeting.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the unauthorized use of the words or ideas of another person. It is a serious academic offense that can result in referral to the Committee on Academic Misconduct and failure for the course. Please remember that at no point during the writing process should the work of others be presented as your own.

> Plagiarism in any course is not acceptable. Plagiarism can be as simple as copying someone's work, using information or quotations without proper attribution and documentation, or submitting someone else's work as your own. **See the Code of Student Conduct at: <** http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resources/ **>**

Students are encouraged to talk to the Course Instructor with questions about how to document a source appropriately or if unsure about what constitutes fair use of someone else's writing and/or ideas.

RESOURCES

The Writing Ombud −Debra Lowry (email: < lowry.40@osu.edu >) mediates conflicts between Instructors and students in Writing Programs courses. Her walk-in office hours in Denney Hall 441 are Monday, 1-3PM, Thursday, 9-11AM, and by appointment. All conversations are confidential.

The OSU Writing Center is available to provide free, professional writing (lab reports to dissertations) tutoring and consultation. Students writing essays may want help at any stage of the writing process from brainstorming and thesis development to revising. The Writing Center will not proofread student assignments.

You may set up an appointment for

- 50-minute tutorial at 4120A Smith Labs
  Monday-Friday (688-4291) or
- Online @ CarmenConnect
  See < https://cstw-scheduler.asc.ohio-state.edu/phpsched/ >.

You may also stop by

- Thompson Library (behind the info desk, first floor)
  Monday-Thursday, 11AM — 3PM and 5 — 7PM
- Smith-Steeb dormitory for walk-in appointments
  Monday-Wednesday, 7 — 9PM.
- Online appointment scheduling available 24/7. Consult policies and online
  resources (or visit the On-Line Writing Lab):
  < http://cstw.osu.edu/writing-center/resources >

The OSU Libraries - Research Tutor Emily Sferra is available to provide help to first- and second-year writing students during any stage of the research process. She is available for tutoring sessions at the Writing Center in Thompson Library located behind the reference desk in Thompson 120. Research tutoring hours are Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 11AM-1PM and 2PM-5PM. Tuesday tutoring hours are from 11AM-1PM and 4PM-6PM. All sessions are walk-in appointments. Emily can be reached at sferra.19@osu.edu.

Research Tutoring help for Students
Please consider referring your students to me for help with any aspect of the research process, including assistance with

- beginning the research process
- formulating a research question
- developing annotated bibliographies
- differentiating between primary and secondary sources
- assessing the academic integrity of source material
- adhering to citations, formatting, and style guidelines
- using library resources
- knowing when to seek help from our Subject Librarians

The Office of International Affairs—English Conversation Partners matches native English speakers with participating international students. Anyone interested may apply online through the OIA website.

See < https://oia.osu.edu/workshops-and-events/english-conversation-program.html >.

What is the English Conversation Program?
As part of the English Conversation Program, groups of five students will meet six times throughout the semester. The small groups will participate in a variety of activities around campus and Columbus. There will also be organized events for the entire English Conversation Program, including potlucks, football tailgates and other cultural events and celebrations. The program enables international students to practice English communication skills and become better acquainted with U.S.

culture. Domestic students have the chance to share their linguistic and cultural knowledge, as well as learn more about another country. Check online for deadline to apply for the program.

NOTE: Students participating in the ECP's language and cultural learning opportunities will receive bonus class participation credit.

Counseling and Consultation Services provide a wide range of resources for undergraduate students. For more information call 292-5766.

The Office for Disability Services provides services to any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability. Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services < http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/ > is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901.

Student Advocacy Center helps students cut through campus bureaucracy. Its purpose is to empower students to overcome obstacles to their growth both inside and outside the classroom, and to help them maximize their educational experience while pursuing their degrees at The Ohio State University. The SAC is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. You can visit them in person at 1120 Lincoln Tower, call at (614) 292-1111, email advocacy@osu.edu, or visit their website: < http://studentlife.osu.edu/advocacy/ >.

Course Schedule

Next class we will track through the "Weekly Schedule" document for a comprehensive view of class activities, assignments, and due dates. Please do not hesitate to contact me with feedback, questions, or to request more information.

Cathy Ryan