

English Department

English 20: The Graphic Novel (Section 01) Spring 2019

Contact Information

Instructor: Ed Sams
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Office Hours:
TTH 10:30-Noon
Fridays 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Class Days/Time:
Friday 9:30-12:15 p.m.

Classroom:
Sweeney Hall 413

GE/SJSU Studies Category: Area C2

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on my Canvas Web page. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn any updates.

Course Description

In English 20 we shall study how pulp literature—comic books, comic strips, underground comix, etc.—influenced the development of graphic novels and how the graphic novel has influenced literary novels and popular films. By studying works from diverse cultures and marginalized communities, as well as learning the historical and cultural backgrounds from which they were produced, we shall explore how this new genre expresses enduring human concerns.

Course Goals and Learning Objectives

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

I. GE writing requirements are met with essays totaling 3000 words.

2. *Reading and discussing assigned texts will focus on enduring human concerns, writing a documented argumentative essay will allow students to respond by writing research-based critical analyses and personal responses, as well as write clearly, correctly, and concisely.*

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- (1) Recognize how significant works illuminate enduring human concerns
- (2) Respond to significant works by writing research-based critical analyses and personal responses
- (3) Write clearly and effectively (writing will be assessed for correctness, clarity, and conciseness).

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to :

- (1) Examine significant works of the human intellect and imagination
- (2) Understand the historical and cultural contexts in which such texts were created
- (3) Recognize the accomplishments and issues related to women and diverse cultures reflected in such texts

Required Texts/Readings Textbook

Bechdel, Alison. *Fun Home* (ISBN 13: 978-0-618-8717-1) at campus bookstore
Chabon, Michael. *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*. (ISBN 0-312-28299-0) at campus bookstore
Eisner, Will. *A Contract with God*. (ISBN 978-0-393-32804-2) at campus bookstore
Gaiman, Neil. *The Sandman: Preludes & Nocturnes*. (ISBN 781401225759) at campus bookstore
Lavalley, Victor. *Destroyer*. Boom! Studios. ISBN 1684150558 (Pub. date Feb. 28, 2018)
McCloud, Scott. *Understanding Comics*. (ISBN 0-06-097625-X) at campus bookstore
Millar, Mark & John Romita Jr. *Kick Ass*. (ISBN 978-0-7851-3261-5) at Amazon.com
Moore, Alan & Dave Gibbons. *Watchmen*. (ISBN 780930 289232) at campus bookstore
Satrapi, Marjane. *Persepolis*. (ISBN 978-0-375-71457-3) at campus bookstore
Spiegelman, Art. *Maus I & II*. (ISBN 978067948403) at campus bookstore
Yang, Gene Luen. *American Born Chinese*. (ISBN 13: 978-1-59643-152-2)

Watchmen - Available through San Jose Public Library's Hoopla (e-book vendor)

Sandman: Preludes & Nocturnes - Available through San Jose Public Library's Hoopla (e-book vendor)

Scott McCloud' s *Understanding Comics* can be read for free through the following links:

<https://youtu.be/C8EQ5pGke4c>

https://youtu.be/pums9_uh6h0

<https://youtu.be/fY-wYvaBhQQ>

<https://youtu.be/fXYckRgsdjl>

<https://youtu.be/P46qJVKxGo8>

Other equipment / material requirements

A good collegiate dictionary, software for PPT presentation and two exam booklets

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

A student's final average will be determined by the breakdown of these grades:

Two 1000-word essays=20%

Two comprehensive exams mid-semester and at the end of the semester (40%)

Ten participation grades involving classroom exercises and homework (10%).

One (1) group PPT (10%).

Final exam essay=20%

NOTE that University policy F69-24, "Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading."

Grading Policy

Exams will be graded on a 100-point scale.

Participation grades will receive $\sqrt{+}$ (100) for work that is on time and complete, $\sqrt{}$ (85) for work that is on time, and $\sqrt{-}$ (70) for work that is late.

All essays will receive letter grades ranging from A to F.

A+=100, A=95, A-=90: Excellent writing that is informative, persuasive, correct

B+=89, B=85, B-=80: Above average writing that is organized, developed, and effective

C+=79, C=75, C-=70: satisfactory writing that is clear, coherent, and complete

D+=69, D=65, D-=60: Unsatisfactory writing that is unclear, incoherent, and incorrect

F=50: Writing that is off-topic, plagiaristic, late, or brief

NOTE: The plus (+) sign with a letter grade indicates the highest degree of performance or value within that range; a minus (-) sign indicates the least performance or lowest value within that range.

There is no provision for late work. Please contact me the day you are absent.
Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading according to [University Policy F-69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf>.

“A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 SJSU Studies (R, S, & V) shall be required of all students as a graduation requirement.” To see full text, review [University Policy S11-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S11-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S11-3.pdf>.

Classroom Protocol

Students are expected to be in their seats when class begins. They should have all the necessary books and readings ready for class activities and discussion. The day's assignments should have been read and assigned homework ready to turn in. Cellphones should be used for classwork only. Computers in class should be used only for note-taking.

University Policies

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Drop deadline: February 5
Add deadline: February 12

The link below contains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc.
<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

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Course Schedule

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule during the semester.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Jan. 24	Intro to syllabus, show & tell participation grade, groups assigned, in-class personal essay on comic books, strips, etc.(GE 1, 3) (CLO 1,2,3)
2	Feb. 1	McCloud (Ch. 1-3) (GE 1), Satrapi, (CLO 1, 2, 3)
3	Feb. 8	McCloud (Ch.4-6), Yang, PPT: Manga (GELO 1, 3) (CLO, 1, 2, 3)
4	Feb. 15	McCloud (Ch. 7-9), Chabon (Part I), Gaiman, PPT: E.C. Comics, (GELO 1,3) (CLO 1, 2)
5	Feb. 22	Chabon (69-122), Eisner, (GELO 1, 2, 3), (CLO 1, 2, 3)
6	Mar. 1	Exam , Chabon (123-187), PPT: D.C. Comics (GELO 1) (CLO 1, 2, 3)
7	Mar. 8	Chabon (188-256), Moore-Gibbons (Parts I-V), PPT: Marvel Comics (GELO 1), (CLO 1, 2)
8	Mar. 15	Chabon (257-321), Moore-Gibbons (Parts VI-XII), (GELO 1) (CLO 1, 2, 3)
9	Mar. 22	Chabon (322-392), <i>Maus</i> I, (GELO 1, 2, 3) (CLO 1, 2, 3)
10	Mar. 29	Chabon (393-459), <i>Maus</i> II, PPT: Underground comics (GE 1, 2, 3), (CLO 1, 2, 3)
11	April 5	Spring Break
12	April 12	outline due, Chabon (460-526), Bechdel, PPT: <i>Young Romance</i> (GE 1, 2, 3) (CLO 1, 2, 3)
13	April 19	Chabon (527-593), <i>Kick Ass</i> , PPT: <i>Archie</i> (GE 1, 3), (CLO 1, 2)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
14	April 26	Chabon (594-636), <i>Kick Ass</i> , PPT: <i>Crime Does Not Pay</i> , film (GE 1) (CLO 1, 2, 3)
15	May 3	<i>Destroyer</i> , argumentative essay
16	May 10	Exam , Final exam prep, (GE 1, 2, 3) (CLO 1, 2, 3)
Final Exam	May 20	Monday, 7:15-9:30 a.m.

