

Montgomery County Community College
 ENG 250
 The Graphic Novel
 3-3-0

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course presents a survey of the graphic novel both in the U.S. and globally from the late 1970s to now. By the end of the course, students will be able to write essays about literary texts in the graphic novel form, define and discuss the characteristics of sequential storytelling, and use secondary sources to analyze specific works from diverse social and cultural perspectives. Equally, they will be able to delineate both the graphic novel's chronological evolution and its various genres.

CO-REQUISITES:*Previous Course Requirements*

- ENG 101 English Composition I with a minimum grade of "C"

Concurrent Course Requirements

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Write essays about literary texts in the graphic novel form.	Lecture Discussion Group analysis of texts AV/Multimedia presentation	Papers Peer review Revisions portfolio
2. Define the characteristics of sequential storytelling.	Lecture Discussion Group analysis of texts AV/Multimedia presentation	Graded short responses Papers Peer review Revisions portfolio
3. Apply critical thinking to make connections between graphic novels and broader literary and artistic	Group discussion or debates Comparative analysis projects Critical review and reflection	Research papers Oral presentations Revisions portfolio

movements.		
4. Use secondary sources to analyze specific works from diverse social and cultural perspectives.	Lecture AV/Multimedia presentation Peer review	Papers Revisions portfolio
5. Discuss the evolution of the graphic novel as a literary form, including its historical development, key milestones, and significant contributors.	Lecture Discussion Group analysis of texts Peer review	Graded short responses Papers Revisions portfolio

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. Establishing a critical framework for discussing and writing about sequential storytelling (*Understanding Comics*).
2. The birth of the graphic novel in 1978 (*A Contract with God*).
3. The emergence of the dark revisionist superhero in the mid-1980s (*The Dark Knight Returns* or *Watchmen*).
4. The manga graphic novel as global phenomenon and American comics influencer in the later 1980s (*Akira* or *Lone Wolf and Cub*).
5. The literary graphic novel: mid-1980s to 1990s (*Maus* and *Sandman*).
6. The 2000s graphic novel as memoir (*American Born Chinese*, *Epileptic*, *Fun Home*, *My Friend Dahmer*, or *Persepolis*).
7. The graphic novel as a means of addressing contemporary issues (*Black Panther*, *Monstress*, or *Prince of Cats*).

LEARNING MATERIALS:

Backderf, Derf. *My Friend Dahmer*. Harry N. Abrams, 2012.

B., David. *Epileptic*. Pantheon, 2006.

Bechtel, Alison. *Fun Home*. Houghton Mifflin, 2007.

Coates, Ta-Nehisi, and Brian Stelfreze. *Black Panther: A Nation Under Our Feet*
Volume 1. Marvel Comics, 2016.

Eisner, Will. *A Contract with God*. W.W. Norton & Company, 2006.

Gaiman, Neil. *The Sandman Volume 1: Preludes and Nocturnes*. Vertigo, 2018.

Koike, Kazuo. *Lone Wolf and Cub Omnibus Volume 1*. Dark Horse Manga, 2013.

Liu, Marjorie. *Monstress Volume 1*. Image Books, 2016.

McCloud, Scott. *Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art*. William Morrow Paperbacks,
1994.

Miller, Frank. *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns*. DC Comics, 1986.

Moore, Alan, and Dave Gibbons. *Watchmen*. DC Comics, 1987.

Otomo, Katsuhiro. *Akira Volume 1*, Kodansha Comics, 2009.

Satrapa, Mariane. *The Complete Persepolis*. Pantheon, 2007.

Spiegelman, Art. *Maus I: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History*. Pantheon, 1986.

Wimberly, Ronald. *The Prince of Cats*, Image, 2019.

Yang, Gene Leun. *American Born Chinese*. First Second, 2021.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Thomas Powers

Date: 11/9/2023

VPAA or designee Compliance Verification:

Date: 3/20/2024



This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.