INFO 5415: Graphic Novels and Comics

Instructor Contact

Name: Dr. Sarah A. Evans

Office Location: Discovery Park E295C Phone Number: (940) 369-8102

Office Hours: Course contact will be online. Please email within the Canvas course. Standard office

hours on campus are Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11am to 1pm.

Email: sarah.evans@unt.edu

Communication Expectations: If you have questions about the course, the best place to go is the General Questions forum of the discussion board. Think of it as raising your hand to ask a clarifying question in the classroom. Your colleagues likely had the same question! We check this forum daily, so you will get a response from myself or the teaching assistant. Also, be sure to check the course announcements regularly.

If you need to ask a personal question, please send me an email at sarah.evans@unt.edu and I will do my best to respond within 48 hours. Since I receive many emails, I request that you include the following information in the subject line:

Course Number Students Last Name: Topic of the Email

You may also leave a message on my office phone number (940-369-8102) and I will respond within 48 hours. In urgent situations, you may use my mobile phone number (206-409-9573) for text messages or calls, but please use this sparingly.

In addition to my standard office hours, I am also available by appointment for in person meetings, telephone calls, or video chats. My goal is to support you in your journey to the library profession, so please reach out as needed.

Course Description

History and development of comic books, graphic novels, their subgenres as literature. Role in western and international societies and cultures. Issues of youth/adult readership and literacy. Race, gender, politics, violent content issues. Presence in popular culture, the Internet, art forms, and translation into movies. Selection tools, policies, collection development, and censorship. Comics and graphic novels programming in libraries and schools. Warning: Some material required in the course may be considered by some to be controversial.

Course Structure

This course is taught exclusively online, through Canvas, and it is the student's responsibility to be able to access, and appropriately use, online materials and complete course requirements as assigned in the course schedule. Materials for this course are organized into weekly modules that begin on Mondays and end on Sundays. Assignments will be identified in the appropriate module with due dates given, and linked from the module with instructions. You should expect to devote at least nine hours per week to

the work for this course. Many of you have full-time commitments outside of your educational pursuit (job, families, etc.). Please plan and prepare accordingly.

Course Prerequisites

None

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1. Knowledgably discuss the history and development of comic books, graphic novels, their subgenres as literature to read and collect for educational and recreational purposes.
- 2. Evaluate literature presented in comic medium for the purposes of making collection decisions, composing professional reviews, and advising potential readers.
- 3. Engage with professional colleagues to improve resources related to comics and graphic novels.
- 4. Design a graphic novels and comics collection for a specific audience.
- 5. Plan programming or curriculum using graphic novels and comics for a specific audience.
- 6. Communicate the value of the comic medium to library stakeholders.

Materials

You will be reading many books this semester. Some I have chosen of us to read together, others you will locate on your own. Remember, you do not have to BUY all the books - check out what is available at your local libraries!

The required and recommended texts are also available for purchase from the UNT bookstore (https://unt.bncollege.com/shop/unt/home)

Required Texts:

- McCloud, S. (1994). Understanding comics: The invisible art. New York: HarperPerennial. ISBN: 9780060976255.
- McCloud, S. (2000). Reinventing comics. New York, N.Y.: HarperCollins. ISBN: 9780060953508.
- Telgemeier, R., & Yue, Stephanie. (2010). Smile. New York, New York: Graphix. ISBN: 9780545132060.
- Miller, F., Janson, Klaus, Varley, Lynn, & Costanza, John. (2016). Batman: The Dark Knight returns 30th anniversary edition (30th anniversary ed.). Burbank, CA: DC Comics. ISBN: 9781401263119.
- Spiegelman, A. (2011). The Complete maus: A survivor's tale (25th anniversary ed.). New York: Pantheon Books. ISBN: 9780679406419.
- Yang, G., & Pien, Lark. (2006). American born Chinese. New York: First Second. ISBN; 9780312384487.
- Takaya, N., Drzka, Sheldon, Blakeslee, Lys, & Blakeslee, Katie. (2016). Fruits basket (Collector's edition; First Yen Press ed., Fruits basket; 1). New York, NY: Yen Press. ISBN: 9780316360166.
- Oda, E., Caselman, Lance, & Nakatani, Andy. (2009). One piece: East blue (Shonen Jump Manga Omnibus ed., Shonen Jump manga). San Francisco, CA: VIZ Media. ISBN: 9781421536255.

Additional graphic novels and comics will be selected by course participants.

Recommended Text:

 Goldsmith, F. (2017). The readers' advisory guide to graphic novels (Second ed., ALA readers' advisory series). Chicago: ALA Editions, an imprint of the American Library Association. ISBN: 9780838915097.

Additional articles will be cited in the Canvas course.

Teaching Philosophy

Great teaching comes with a commitment to learn, especially as students join in the spirit of co-learning. I believe the most effective teachers will always be those who want to motivate and guide students to recognize their own knowledge and skills and plan ways of expanding that knowledge. The activities in this course are designed to bring you into the librarian community of practice through the deliberation of relevant issues and the creation of practical products. As a teacher, I strive to create with you all a course experience that is relational, respectful, real, reflective, and responsive.

Technical Requirements & Skills

Minimum Technology Requirements

- Computer
- Reliable internet access
- Speakers
- Microphone
- Plug-ins
- Microsoft Office Suite
- Canvas Technical Requirements (https://clear.unt.edu/supportedtechnologies/canvas/requirements)

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

- Using Canvas
- Using email with attachments
- Downloading and installing software
- Using spreadsheet programs
- Using presentation and graphics programs
- Willingness to experiment with new applications

Netiquette

Netiquette, or online etiquette, refers to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors online. Here are some general guidelines:

- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in email or any other communication.
- Use clear and concise language.

 Remember that all college level communication should have correct spelling and grammar (this includes discussion boards).

- Avoid slang terms such as "wassup?" and texting abbreviations such as "u" instead of "you."
- Use standard fonts such as Ariel, Calibri or Times new Roman and use a size 10 or 12 point font
- Avoid using the caps lock feature AS IT CAN BE INTERPRETTED AS YELLING.
- Limit and possibly avoid the use of emoticons like :) or ☺.
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post and your message might be taken seriously or sound offensive.
- Be careful with personal information (both yours and other's).
- Do not send confidential information via e-mail
- Most importantly, please treat everyone, including yourself, with compassion and respect. This semester we are a learning community and in the future we will be librarian colleagues. We can be professionals that provide both constructive feedback and support.

See these Netiquette Guidelines (http://teach.ufl.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf) for more information.

Success in an Online Course

While the online classroom shares many similarities with the face-to-face classroom, success in online education requires certain skills and expectations that you may not be aware of. For useful tips in navigating on online course, visit "How to Succeed as an Online Student" (https://clear.unt.edu/teaching-resources/online-teaching/succeed-online).

Getting Help

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UNT Help Desk (http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130 Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm

Telephone Availability:

Sunday: noon-midnight

Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight

• Friday: 8am-8pm Saturday: 9am-5pm Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit Canvas Technical Help (https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)

Student Support Services

• Registrar (https://registrar.unt.edu/registration)

- Financial Aid (https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
- <u>Student Legal Services</u> (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
- <u>Career Center</u> (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
- <u>Multicultural Center</u> (https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)
- Counseling and Testing Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- Student Affairs Care Team (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
- <u>Student Health and Wellness Center</u> (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-andwellness-center)
- Pride Alliance (https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)

Academic Support Services

- Academic Resource Center (https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources)
- Academic Success Center (https://success.unt.edu/asc)
- <u>UNT Libraries</u> (https://library.unt.edu/)
- Writing Lab (http://writingcenter.unt.edu/)
- MathLab (https://math.unt.edu/mathlab)

Course Requirements

Assignment	Points Possible	
Comic Creation with App	20 points	
Book Reviews	105 points	
Short – 10 points draft / 25 points final		
 Medium – 10 points draft / 25 points final 		
 Long – 10 points draft / 25 points final 		
Book Talk vs. Book Trailer Videos – 25 points draft / 75 points final	100 points	
Response with Resources to Request for Reconsideration – 25 points	100 points	
draft / 75 points final		
Patron Collection with Program or Curriculum – 25 points draft / 75	100 points	
points final		
Personal Reading Log	300 points	
15 items @ 20 points each		
Discussion	185 points	
 Topical – 8 discussions @ 10 points each 		
 Book – 7 discussions @ 15 points each 		
Peer Review – 6 reviews @ 10 points each	60 points	
Personal Reflection	30 points	
Pre-Course – 15 points		
Post-Course – 15 points		
Total Points Possible	1000 points	

Grading Policies

Final Grade Scale

A = 900-1000

B = 800 - 899

C = 700-799

D = 600-699

F = 500-599

Students may earn **extra credit** by prior approval of the instructor once during the course. To do so, visit a local comic book store and interview an employee – preferably the owner. To receive 20 points extra credit, you must visit the Extra Credit discussion area and briefly answer the following in a new thread:

- Where is the comic book store located? Describe the area and the store's visibility.
- What do you notice about the layout of the store? What attracts your eye the most?
- How are the materials organized? Do you feel that you could find an item of interest on your own?
- Is help readily available to store visitors?
- During the interview, ask questions about the following topics:
 - The owner/employee's background in relation to comics and to this location specifically.
 - Their personal preferences in graphic novels and comics as well as what trends they notice with their patrons.
 - o Their own ideas about future directions in comics and graphic novels

Course Evaluation

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT and allows students the ability to confidentially provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course.

I will also ask you to answer a couple questions around the middle of the semester as a "pulse check" on your course experience.

Course Policies

Assignment Policy

Assignments are due by 11:59pm Central Time by the end of the module or the date listed in the syllabus. You will submit all assignments through Canvas. Do not email assignments unless instructed otherwise.

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

All assignments are expected to conform to basic standards for scholarly writing. In this course, you are expected to follow American Psychological Association (APA) 6th edition manual of style in all of your

reference and citation formatting for this course. Proper documentation of sources is the best defense against plagiarism. When citing references (books, journal articles, and websites) in any assignment, you must adhere to the APA citation guidelines.

Examination Policy

There are no examinations in this course.

Assignment Feedback

For assignments turned in on-time, we strive to provide feedback within two weeks through Canvas. If the assignment is late, you will receive feedback at our convenience. Feedback on your work may take the form of an overall narrative comment, specific comments on particular areas of your work, both, or some other form. Grading rubrics, when used, will be provided with the assignment so that students may use them to assess their own work in advance of submission. If you are unsatisfied with your grade on an assignment, you may submit a revised version within a week of receiving feedback. All assignments, revised or original, must be turned in by 11:59pm on the last day of class to receive credit

Late Work

If there are extenuating circumstances **and** you contact me before an assignment's deadline, we can negotiate another due date. Otherwise, **late work** will lose 10% per day late until a full week has passed, after which it will not be accepted.

Attendance Policy

Students are required to log into the course through Canvas multiple times a week to view class announcements, check grades, and complete assignments. University policy states the conditions and remedies for school and personal related absences. Visit the University of North Texas Attendance Policy (http://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-2-) to learn more.

Class Participation

Interaction with course material is critical to your own learning. Your learning achievement will be magnified if you engage with your fellow students. Participating in discussions and other assignments in a timely manner will create a learning community that benefits us all.

Syllabus Change Policy

As the instructor, I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus if needed. Notices will be posted in the course announcement section in advance of changes being made.

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their

eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website (https://disability.unt.edu/).

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's Code of Student Conduct (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail Eagle Connect (https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the

email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website (http://spot.unt.edu/) or email spot@unt.edu.

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

Federal Regulation

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website (http://www.ecfr.gov/). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

(1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.

(2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

Student Verification

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See <u>UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification</u>, <u>Privacy</u>, and <u>Notification and Distance Education</u> <u>Courses</u> (https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002).

Use of Student Work

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.

Download the UNT System Permission, Waiver and Release Form

Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically-Delivered Courses

- 1. No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via videoconference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery.
- 2. In the event an instructor records student presentations, he or she must obtain permission from the student using a signed release in order to use the recording for future classes in accordance with the Use of Student-Created Work guidelines above.

3. Instructors who video-record their class lectures with the intention of re-using some or all of recordings for future class offerings must notify students on the course syllabus if students' images may appear on video. Instructors are also advised to provide accommodation for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings.

Example: This course employs lecture capture technology to record class sessions. Students may occasionally appear on video. The lecture recordings will be available to you for study purposes and may also be reused in future course offerings.

No notification is needed if only audio and slide capture is used or if the video only records the instructor's image. However, the instructor is encouraged to let students know the recordings will be available to them for study purposes.

Calendar of Modules and Assignments:

Unless otherwise stated, all course work is due by 11:59pm CST on the last day of the weekend (Sunday)

Wk	Dates	Module	Topic	Readings	Discussion	Activities
1	8/26-9/1	Course	Avengers	Understanding	Topical Discussion #1	Pre-Course Reflection
		Introduction	Assemble!	Comics Intro		
				thru Ch 4		
2	9/2-9/8	Historical	A Tour	Understanding	Book Discussion #1 -	Comic Creation with App
	(Labor Day)	Sequential Art	through Time	Comics Ch 5	Smile	
			and Space	thru Ch 9		
3	9/9-9/15	Cartoons and	Serial	Reinventing	Topical Discussion #2	Short Book Review - DRAFT
		Comic Strips	Distribution	Comics Intro		
				thru Part 1		
4	9/16-9/22	Superhero	Gold, Silver,	Reinventing	Book Discussion #2 –	Peer Reviews
		Comics	and Bronze	Comics Part 2	Batman: Dark Knight	
				thru Conclusion	Returns	
5	9/23-9/29	Superhero	The Modern	Choose two	Topical Discussion #3	Medium Book Review -
		Comics	(Movie) Age	from the		DRAFT
				Batcave		
6	9/30-10/6	Independent	Underground	Choose two	Book Discussion #3 –	Peer Reviews
	(Rosh	Comics	to Alternative	from the	The Complete Maus	
	Hashanah)			Batcave		
7	10/7-10/13	Independent	Rise of the	Choose two	Topical Discussion #4	Long Book Review - DRAFT
	(Yom Kippur,	Comics	Graphic Novel	from the		
	Sukkot)			Batcave		
8	10/14-10/20	Practical	Getting (and	Choose two	Book Discussion #4 –	Peer Reviews
	(Sukkot,	Librarianship	Keeping)	from the	American Born Chinese	
	Indigenous		Comics	Batcave		
	Peoples' Day)					

9	10/21-10/27	Practical	Playing and	Choose two	Topical Discussion #5	Book Talk vs. Book Trailer -
		Librarianship	Learning	from the		DRAFT
				Batcave		
10	10/28-11/3	East Asian	Manga	Choose two	Book Discussion #5 –	Peer Reviews
	(Halloween)	Comics		from the	Fruits Basket	
				Batcave		
11	11/4-11/10	East Asian	Manhwa,	Choose two	Topical Discussion #6	Response with Resources to
	(Election Day)	Comics	Manhua, and	from the		Request for Reconsideration -
			More	Batcave		DRAFT
12	11/11-11/17	French Comics	Beyond Tin-	Choose two	Book Discussion #6 –	Peer Reviews
	(Veteran's Day)		Tin	from the	One Piece	
				Batcave		
13	11/18-11/24	Spanish and	Spain, Mexico,	Choose two	Topical Discussion #7	Patron Collection with
		Portuguese	and Brazil	from the		Program or Curriculum -
		Comics		Batcave		DRAFT
14	11/25-12/1	Comics	Around the	Choose two	Book Discussion #7 –	Peer Reviews
	(Thanksgiving)	Everywhere	World Again	from the	Talk about favorites in	
				Batcave	Personal Reading Log	
15	12/2-12/8	Comics	Web Comics		Topical Discussion #8	Professional Packet - Due
	(Last Week of	Everywhere				Thursday, 12/5 at 11:59pm
	Classes)					CST
16	12/9-12/12	Wrap-Up	Titans Go!			Personal Reading Log; Post-
	(Finals Week)					Course Reflection - Due
						Thursday, 12/12 at 11:59pm
						CST