

Number	GSLL 288
Title	Graphic Medicine: The Intersection of Health and Comics Across the Atlantic
Credit hours	3
Course Description	<p>As a popular medium, comics have been around since the early 20th century. But while they were once considered unserious texts consumed by children, the last few decades have seen serious attention paid to comics within academia. Scholars have started considering what is unique about the medium; namely its accessibility, its ability to combine ways of reading image and text that make articulating some experiences easier than in other media. In this class, we will explore these unique possibilities of comics in the form of graphic medicine: namely comics that thematize health, both physical and mental. How do comic artists work through issues of trauma and pain? How do artists with chronic illness and disabilities articulate their experience through comics? The transatlantic focus of this class will allow students to draw comparisons with Europe. Are the narratives in countries with a stronger social welfare system more positive? Does a place that embraces individuality like the US allow for people to feel more included in society at large? Or are there types of discrimination and exclusion that are more subtle? When and where have new attitudes and language like neurodiversity and healthy-bodies-at-every-size been embraced? Are some conditions more or less stigmatized than others? What kinds of support are available to individuals with mental or physical illness? As part of the course, students will be assigned a European country for which they should research the theme of the text and what sociohistorical context is necessary for better understanding the text. The comics tackle a range of medical conditions from autism and anxiety to trauma from sexual violence and war. This course engages with the medical Humanities, seeking to bring together students of medicine along with students of the Humanities to contemplate how we communicate physical and mental illness. At the end of the class, students will have the opportunity to create their own comic.</p>
Prerequisites	None
Target Audience	Undergraduates
Instructor	Priscilla Layne Dey 424 Phone: 510-717-3888 Email: playne@email.unc.edu
Course Website	
Class Days, Times, Location	TuTh 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM, DEY 404

Office Hours	Office hours are Tuesdays 12:30 – 1:30 PM, Thursdays 3:00 – 4:00 PM. Students may request an appointment by email. Virtual office hours may be conducted via Zoom.
Course Texts	See syllabus
Course Format	The course format will include two weekly seminars. The seminars are intended to explain the films, place them in their historical and cultural context, and model ways of analyzing and engaging with the material under study. In seminar, students will also get a chance to contribute to a discussion in the film as a class and in small groups.

Course Assignments and Assessments

Example:

Assignments	Percentages
Attendance and Class Participation	15%
Responses	15%
Midterm	15%
Presentation	10%
Analytic Essay	20%
Comic Project	25%

Grading Scale

Converting your final average to a letter grade:

Example:

93 or above: A
 90 to 92: A-
 87 to 89: B+
 83 to 86: B
 80 to 82: B-
 77 to 79: C+
 73 to 76: C
 70 to 72: C-
 67 to 69: D+
 60 to 67: D
 Below 60: E

Assignment Descriptions

- ✓ Students must write a ca. 150 word response to each day to the comic or graphic novel we are reading that week. This should be posted on Sakai in their Dropbox by 2pm on the day we discuss the text. In this response, students should respond to the instructor's prompt and raise any questions they have about the text.
- ✓ In pairs, students are asked to present an oral report on the sociohistorical context of one of the European comics. The oral presentation should be 10 minutes. The presentation may also include a discussion of the artist, the overall themes of the comic and an analysis of 1-3 panels.

- ✓ There are two written assignments: one analytical essay (4-5), a comic (4-5 pp) and a personal reflection (5 pp).
- There is one exam: a midterm.
- For their final project, students must write their own comic that is an example of graphic medicine. Students should choose a theme in consultation with the instructor. Students can use any form of illustration: painting, drawing, sketches, black and white, color, collage or photography. The comic must be a combination of images and text. Along with this creative work, student must submit a 5-page reflection on the process of creating the comic (what decisions they had to make about art, text, topic etc), discuss what comics may have influenced their own and how their decisions are informed by the comic theory we've read during the semester. Further guidelines will be distributed following the midterm.

Course Policies and Resources

[The following are examples to include.]

Accessibility Resources	UNC-Chapel Hill facilitates the implementation of reasonable accommodations for students with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, mental health struggles, chronic medical conditions, temporary disability, or pregnancy complications, all of which can impair student success. See the ARS website for contact and registration information: https://ars.unc.edu/about-ars/contact-us
Attendance Policy	<p>No right or privilege exists that permits a student to be absent from any class meetings, except for these University Approved Absences:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authorized University activities 2. Disability/religious observance/pregnancy, as required by law and approved by Accessibility Resources and Service and/or the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office (EOC) <p>Significant health condition and/or personal/family emergency as approved by the Office of the Dean of Students, Gender Violence Service Coordinators, and/or the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office (EOC).</p> <p>For situations when an absence is not University approved (e.g., a job interview or club activity), you are allowed to miss up to two classes. Subsequent absences will result in lowering your final grade by ½ a grade for each additional absence.</p>
University Testing Center	The College of Arts and Sciences provides a secure, proctored environment in which exams can be taken. The center works with instructors to proctor exams for their undergraduate students who are not registered with ARS and who do not need testing accommodations as provided by ARS. In other words, the Center provides a proctored testing environment for students who are unable to take an exam at the normally scheduled time (with pre-arrangement by your instructor). For more information, visit http://testingcenter.web.unc.edu/ .

Counseling and Psychological Services	CAPS is strongly committed to addressing the mental health needs of a diverse student body through timely access to consultation and connection to clinically appropriate services, whether for short or long-term needs. Go to their website: https://caps.unc.edu/ or visit their facilities on the third floor of the Campus Health Services building for a walk-in evaluation to learn more.
Honor Code Statement	Students are bound by the Honor Code in taking exams and in written work. The Honor Code of the University is in effect at all times, and the submission of work signifies understanding and acceptance of those requirements. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please consult with me if you have any questions about the Honor Code.
Technology Use	I generally allow computers to be used in class, especially if an assigned reading was available electronically. I reserve the ability to disallow the use of computers when I feel doing so will enhance discussion. If you choose to use your laptop, I expect you to be 100% “with us,” which means no e-mail, no Facebook, no Twitter, no ESPN, and so on.

Course at a Glance

The professor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus, including project due dates and test dates. These changes will be announced as early as possible.

During week 1, also assign excerpts from El Refaie’s *Autobiographical Comics* and Kunka’s *Autobiographical Comics*.

Topic	Class Session	
	#	Date
Unit 1: How to Read Comics		
Excerpt from <i>How to Read Nancy</i>	1	Week 1, Tuesday
Excerpt from <i>Why Comics?</i>	2	Week 1, Thursday
Excerpt from <i>Understanding Comics</i>	3	Week 2, Tuesday
Birgit Weyhe, <i>Frozen Ititi</i> (Germany)	4	Week 2, Thursday
Unit 2: Anxiety		
Moa Romanova, <i>Goblin Girl</i> (Sweden)	5	Week 3, Tuesday
Moa Romanova, <i>Goblin Girl</i> (Sweden)	6	Week 3, Thursday
Unit 3: Neurodiversity (add alien)		
Miguel Gallardo, <i>Maria and Me</i> (Spain)	7	Week 4, Tuesday
Miguel Gallardo, <i>Maria and Me</i> (Spain)	8	Week 4, Thursday
Julie Dachez, <i>Invisible Differences</i> (France)	9	Week 5, Tuesday

Julie Dachez, <i>Invisible Differences</i> (France)	10	Week 5, Thursday
Unit 4: Anorexia		
Regina Hofer, <i>Fat</i> (Austria)	11	Week 6, Tuesday
Regina Hofer, <i>Fat</i> (Austria)	12	Week 6, Thursday
Unit 5: Cancer		
Élodie Durand, <i>Parenthesis</i> (France)	13	Week 7, Tuesday
Élodie Durand, <i>Parenthesis</i> (France)	14	Week 7, Thursday
Unit 6: Depression		
Ellen Forney, <i>Marbles</i> (US)	15	Week 8, Tuesday
Ellen Forney, <i>Marbles</i> (US) https://www.leadership.ventures/visualexplorer How do you feel about your grasp of this topic so far?	16	Week 8, Thursday
Unit 7: Sexual Assault		
Una, <i>Becoming Unbecoming</i> (UK)	17	Week 9, Tuesday
Una, <i>Becoming Unbecoming</i> (UK)	18	Week 9, Thursday
Ulli Lust, <i>Today is the Last Day of the Rest of Your Life</i> (Germany)	19	Week 10, Tuesday
Ulli Lust, <i>Today is the Last Day of the Rest of Your Life</i> (Germany)	20	Week 10, Thursday
Spring Break		
Unit 8: Physical Disability		
ET Russian, <i>The Ring of Fire Anthology</i> (US)	21	Week 11, Tuesday
ET Russian, <i>The Ring of Fire Anthology</i> (US)	22	Week 11, Thursday
Unit 9: STDs		
Charles Burns, <i>Black Hole</i> (US)	23	Week 12, Tuesday
Charles Burns, <i>Black Hole</i> (US)	24	Week 12, Thursday
Charles Burns, <i>Black Hole</i> (US)	25	Week 13, Tuesday
Charles Burns, <i>Black Hole</i> (US)	26	Week 13, Thursday
<i>Blue Pills</i> (Switzerland)	27	Week 14, Tuesday
<i>Blue Pills</i> (Switzerland)	28	Week 14, Thursday
Unit 10: Childhood Trauma		
Miriam Katin, <i>We are on Our Own</i> (Hungary)	29	Week 15, Tuesday
Miriam Katin, <i>We are on Our Own</i> (Hungary) Reflection with images: https://www.leadership.ventures/visualexplorer How do you feel about your grasp of this topic after this semester?	30	Week 15, Thursday

Field Code Changed

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