HON 344  
Illustrating History/the World: Graphic Memoirs, Novels, and Reportage  

Spring 2012

Catalog Description:
Prerequisite: acceptance to the University Honors Program, or consent of instructor. Using an interdisciplinary approach, this course will explore the ways in which history and culture, the “Other” and the “Self,” are conveyed and/or challenged through visual texts, such as graphic memoirs, novels, and reportage. We will examine the relationship between text and image as well as the efficacy of representing individual and collective histories and experiences in “comic” form. (Offered as needed.) 3 credits.

Restrictions: Acceptance to the University Honors Program, or consent of instructor

Essential Equipment and Facilities: Seminar-style classroom with computer equipment.

Course Goals, Objectives and Learning Outcomes:
This course enables students to:
- Gain knowledge of historical, cultural, and literary contexts as well as diverse experiences, expressions, and definitions of culture and identity.
- Strengthen critical thinking and writing and gain knowledge of various theoretical approaches to the study of literature and culture, including Psychoanalytic, Feminist, and Postcolonial approaches.
- Explore the power of the graphic form in constructing history and creating notions of Self/Other, community, and nation.

Content:
1. Overview of the graphic form as it has developed and as it relates to other literary forms.
2. Exploration of (individual and collective) historical narratives through visual representation.
3. Strengthening of critical thinking and writing and gaining of knowledge of various theoretical approaches to the study of literature and culture, including Psychoanalytic, Feminist, and Postcolonial approaches.
4. Understanding of the relationship between text and image (and the strengths and weaknesses within this relationship).

Current Required Texts:
Delisle, Guy.  *Pyongyang: A Journey in North Korea*  
Eisner, Will.  *A Contract with God*
McCloud, Scott. *Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art*
Sacco, Joe. *Palestine* and *Safe Area Gorazde: The War in Eastern Bosnia*
Satrapi, Marjane. *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood* and *Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return*
Spiegelman, Art. *Maus: My Father Bleeds History* and *Maus II: A Survivor’s Tale – And Here My Troubles Began*

Various Literary, Historical, and Theoretical Handouts (to be distributed in class and/or BlackBoard)

**Instructional Strategies:**
1. **Writing Assignments**
   - Writing assignments will be required, in both shorter response (to readings) form as well as formal essays.

2. **Seminar: engagement with texts and each other**
   - Students will be required to lead discussions

3. **Final presentation**
   - Students will be required to give a formal presentation on their final essay topic.

4. **Final Exam**
   - Students will complete a comprehensive exam that includes exercises that allow for connections between texts and topics as well as a written component.

**Methods of Evaluation:**
- **Writing Assignments** 40%
- **Seminars (led discussions/participation)** 15%
- **Final Presentation** 15%
- **Final Exam** 30%

**Chapman University Academic Integrity Policy:**
Chapman University is a community of scholars which emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work, and academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated anywhere in the university.

**Students with Disabilities Policy:**
The course syllabus should include the following statement:

In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to inform the instructor at the beginning of the term. The University, through the Center for Academic Success, will work with the appropriate faculty member who is asked to provide the accommodations for a student in determining what accommodations are suitable based on the documentation and the individual student needs. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

**Prepared by:**
Justine K. Van Meter, Interterm 2011