

**AP/EN 2176 3.0: Comics & Cartoons I
F 2019**

Syllabus

Lecture:

W 8:30-10:30am VH C

Tutorials:

T1 W 10:30-11:30 VH 3017
 T2 W 11:30-12:30 CSQ 103J
 T3 W 12:30-1:30 MC 214
 T4 W 10:30-11:30 VH 3000
 T5 W 11:30-12:30 R S101A

Course Director:

Dr. Jordana Greenblatt

Office Hour: W 12:00-1:00pm
 and by appointment Th 3:30-4:30pm

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Teaching Assistants:

Robert Sparrow-Downes

Office Hour: W 10:30-11:30 am

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Catherine Umolac

Office Hour: W 12:30-1:30pm

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From *The Yellow Kid* in the late 19th century to the Cold War moral panic about comics and the introduction of the Comics Code, the comics and cartoons we study in this course reflect, affect, and were affected by American social and political attitudes through the late 19th century and the first half of the 20th century. We will pay special attention to the relationship between comics and American culture, exploring the influence of political, social, and intellectual movements on comics. Our investigations will cover surreal newspaper comics (*Little Nemo*, *Krazy Kat*), early superheroes (*Superman*, *Batman*, *Wonder Woman*), work by early women in comics (*Golden Eyes*, *Patty-Jo 'n' Ginger*, *Miss Fury*), and a selection of the SciFi, horror, crime, and war comics that so concerned 1950s politicians and lawmakers. The comics and cartoons we will explore engage with issues relevant to the America of their times—the two World Wars, the changing role of women and attitudes towards gender, issues of race and/or class, prohibition, and a range of other contemporary concerns. Through studying American comics of this era, we will learn to understand and analyze the unique attributes of the medium, while investigating the ways in which various comics creators reflected and/or challenged the attitudes and issues of their day.

This course consists of one 2 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial each week.

Requirements:

Midterm Test		Oct 23 rd	(25%)
5pp Essay	Due	Nov 27 th	(30%)
Final Exam			(30%)
Participations/Contribution to Tutorial			(15%)

Reading List:

******PLEASE MAKE SURE TO BRING COPIES OF ALL READINGS FOR A GIVEN SESSION TO CLASS WITH YOU THAT DAY******

Books and course kit are available from the YorkU bookstore. Some comics must be purchased through comixology.com or kindle. Some of the material is available for free online.

Please note that you will need the course kit. It contains required comics. Full bibliographic information for the material in the kit can be found on the final page of the kit.

Bookstore:

McCloud, Scott. *Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art*.

Course Kit [indicated throughout the syllabus], includes comics by Nell Brinkley, Jackie Ormes, and Tarpé Mills.

Kindle eBook:

Herriman, George. *Krazy & Ignatz, 1922-24: At Last My Dream of Love Has Come True*

Online [free, indicated throughout syllabus]:

Various comics, including *The Yellow Kid*, *Little Nemo in Slumberland*, and a range of SciFi, Horror, and EC Comics.

EC Comics [indicated throughout syllabus] available from Comixology:

Kane, Bob. *Batman (1940-2011) #1 AND #13*

Moulton, Charles. *Sensation Comics #1, #2-3, #4-5, #6-7, AND #8-9*

Siegel, Jerry and Joe Shuster. *Superman Chronicles, Vol 1*.

Various Authors. *All-Star Comics #8*

Various Authors. *Detective Comics (1937-2011) #27 AND #38*

Lecture Schedule and Required Readings:

Readings marked with a "" can be found in the course kit.*

URLs are included for online course material. Some links are to archives of newspaper weeklies.

Guidance as to which weekly episodes to focus on will be posted on moodle.

Week One

Sept 4:

- Introduction

Week Two

Sept 11:

- Required Reading:
McCloud, Scott. *Understanding Comics*

Tutorials and Office Hours Start This Week

Wacky Weekly Weirdness

Week Three

Sept 18:

- Required Reading:
Outcault, Richard. *Buster Brown Short Stories* [online at:
<http://digitalcomicmuseum.com/preview/index.php?did=15454&page=1>]
Outcault, Richard. "The Yellow Kid" comics [selection, online at:
https://cartoons.osu.edu/digital_albums/yellowkid/index.htm]

Week Four

Sept 25:

- Required Reading:
McCay, Winsor. *Little Nemo in Slumberland* [online at:
www.comicstriplibrary.org/browse/results?title=2 ; see moodle for required episodes]
- Required Viewing:
A selection of Winsor McCay's animation, including *Little Nemo*, *How a Mosquito Operates*, and *Gertie the Dinosaur* [online at:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winsor_McCay#Filmography]

Week Five

Oct 2:

- Required Reading:
Herriman, George. *Krazy & Ignatz, 1922-1924* [for sale at <https://www.amazon.ca/Krazy-Ignatz-1922-1924-Drim-Love-ebook/dp/B013XRZNVW> ; see moodle for emphasized episodes]
- Required Viewing:
Steamboat Willie and Betty Boop in *Minne the Moocher* [links on moodle]

Week Six

Oct 9:

Yom Kippur. **No Class**

Oct 16:

Reading Week: No Class

Week Seven

Oct 23:

MIDTERM

2 hours, in lecture

No tutorials or office hours this week

Comics as Social Message(s)

Week Eight

Oct 30:

- Required Reading:
 - *Brinkley, Nell. “Golden Eyes” and Her Hero “Bill”
 - Brinkley, Nell. “Too Busy,” excerpted from Robbin, Trina. *Nell Brinkley and the New Woman in the Early 20th Century*, McFarland Publishing, 2001. [on moodle]
 - Brinkley, Nell. “The Three Graces.” [online at: <http://spartacus-educational.com/USAWbrinkley.jpg>]
 - *Ormes, Jackie. Selections of *Torchy Brown* and *Patty-Jo ‘n’ Ginger*, excerpted from Nancy Goldstein’s *Jackie Ormes: The First African American Woman Cartoonist*
- Required Viewing:
 - Winsor McCay’s “The Sinking of the Lusitania” [online at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winsor_McCay#Filmography]
- In-Class Screening:
 - Scrub Me Mamma with a Boogie Beat*

Week Nine

Nov 6:

Note: All of the comics linked below are quite short!

- Required Reading:
 - *Association of Comics Magazine Publishers Comics Code, 1948
 - *Comics Magazine Association of America Comics Code, 1954
 - Cole, Jack. “Murder, Morphine and Me.” Originally published in *True Crime Comics* #2 (May 1947), Magazine Village. [online at: <http://colescomics.blogspot.ca/2010/04/jack-coles-comic-book-career-study.html>]
 - Feldstein, Al (w) and Jack Davis (a). “Foul Play!” Originally published in *Haunt of Fear* #19 (May-June 1953), EC Comics. [online at: <http://pappysgoldenage.blogspot.ca/2012/08/number-1219-baseball-by-moonlight.html>]
 - Feldstein, Al (w) and Jack Davis (a). “Tain’t the Meat ... It’s the Humanity!” Originally published in *Tales from the Crypt* #32 (Oct.-Nov. 1952), EC Comics. [online at: <http://rhade-zapan.tumblr.com/post/33395477878/taint-the-meat-its-the-humanity-full-comic>]
 - Feldstein, Al (w) and Joe Orlando (a). “Judgment Day!” Originally published in *Weird Fantasy* #18 (Mar.-Apr. 1953), EC Comics. [online at: <http://kb-outofthisworld.blogspot.ca/2010/02/anti-racism-in-1950s-comics-weird.html>]
 - Feldstein, Al (w), Al Williamson (p/i), [Frank Frazetta] (i), and [Roy Krenkel] (i). “50 Girls 50.” Originally published in colour in *Weird Science* #20 (July-Aug. 1953), EC Comics. [online at: <http://stendec9.blogspot.ca/2012/06/50-girls-50-horror-tale-by-frank.html>]
 - Feldstein, Al (w) and Wally Wood (a). “The Whipping.” Originally published in *Shock SuspensStories* #14 (Apr.-May 1954), EC Comics. [online at: <http://ethunter1.blogspot.ca/2013/11/sunday-funnies-ec-shocks-whipping.html>]
 - Kurtzman, Harvey. “Corpse on the Imjin!” Originally published in *Two-Fisted Tales* #25 (Jan.-Feb. 1952), EC Comics. [online at:

<http://ethunter1.blogspot.ca/2013/08/sunday-funnies-two-fisted-tales-corpse.html>]

- Recommended Reading:
Feldstein, Al (w), and “Ghastly” [Graham] Ingels (a). “Horror We? How’s Bayou?” Originally published in *Haunt of Fear* #17 (Jan.-Feb. 1953), EC Comics. [online at: <http://anintrotohorror.blogspot.ca/2012/07/horror-we-hows-bayou.html>]
Feldstein, Al (w) and Jack Kamen (a). “The Orphan.” Originally published in *Shock SuspenStories* #14 (Apr.-May 1954), EC Comics. [online at: <http://ethunter1.blogspot.ca/2013/04/sunday-funnies-ecs-shock-14s-orphan.html>]
Kurtzman, Harvey. “Big ‘If!’” Originally published in *Frontline Combat* #5 (Mar.-Apr. 1952), EC Comics. [online at: <http://www.michaelspornanimation.com/splog/?p=2694>]

Superheroes

Week Ten

Nov 13:

- Required Reading:
Kane, Bob. “The Bat-Man: The Case of the Chemical Syndicate” (in *Detective Comics* #27), “The Batman Presents the Sensational Character Find of 1940... The Boy Wonder” (in *Detective Comics* #38), *Batman (1940-2011)* #1, and *Batman (1940-2011)* #13 [**all available at comixology.com; direct links on moodle**]
Siegel, Jerry and Joe Shuster. *Superman Chronicles, Vol 1*, read: *Action Comics* 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13 [**available at comixology.com; direct link on moodle**]

Week Eleven

Nov 20:

- Required Reading:
*Mills, Tarpé. *Miss Fury*, excerpted from Mills, Tarpé. *Miss Fury Sensational Sundays: 1944-1949*, edited by Trina Robbins, IDW Publishing, 2011.
Moulton, Charles. “Introducing Wonder Woman” (in *All-Star Comics* #8), *Sensation Comics* #1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, and 8-9 [**all available at comixology.com; direct links on moodle**]

Week Twelve

Nov 27:

Essay Due

- Review

Tutorial Participation

Discussion and informed participation in your tutorials are crucial for success in this class. Attendance is, of course, necessary in order to participate, but good attendance alone is not sufficient. Your participation mark will reflect the degree to which you make an active, and productive, contribution to our discussions. Please note that productivity does not just equal quantity, but also quality: i.e. your comments should be designed to forward discussion, not just to take up space. You are expected to come to class each week having read the assigned material and prepared yourself to talk about it with and in front of your tutorial leader and your peers.

Format:

The essay is to be written in **MLA format**. Instructions for MLA format can be found in the most recent edition of *The MLA Handbook* (available at the library) or here:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Writing Style:

Good writing style is essential to good argumentation and clarity. Elements such as spelling, grammar, syntax, structure, and clarity are integral to your written work. Good writing style is expected of all of your written evaluations. Please be aware that this is an English course, and you will be expected to write essays at an appropriate level. If you find yourself having difficulty with your written work, I would encourage you to make an appointment at the York University Writing Centre: <http://www.yorku.ca/laps/writ/centre/>

I have also included some online writing resources on the course moodle site, and you might find the book *They Say/I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing* by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein useful. The York Library has many copies, and it is also readily available for sale used and/or online.

Learning Strategies:

You can meet with professional Learning Skills Specialists free of charge through the Learning Skills Services <http://lss.info.yorku.ca/>. Learning Skills Specialists can help you with academic skills such as note taking, studying, time management, and exam writing, among others. Learning Skills Services also offers workshops, peer coaching, and drop-ins. You must make use of at least one of these services once before you can book a one-on-one appointment with a Learning Skills Specialist.

Academic Honesty/Secondary Sources:

Students will not be required to seek out secondary sources for their final paper, but they may seek out such sources to further their studies and help them to understand the course material. When a student draws from such a source in any way, whether in the form of a direct quotation, a paraphrase, or an idea or information taken from someone else's work, it must be attributed and cited as such in the body of the essay and on the works cited page. Attributing ideas and quotations in this way is an important part of good scholarly practice. Failure to cite and/or attribute the work of others in **any of your course work** constitutes plagiarism. All discovered cases of plagiarism will be reported to the university. Please review the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty here: <http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69> and the Academic Integrity for Students page here:

<http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students/index.htm>

TurnItIn:

Students must upload their essays to TurnItIn via the course Moodle site. Students who choose to opt out of this requirement will need to submit outlines and drafts of all assignments as an alternative. If you object to submitting work to TurnItIn, let your tutorial leader know by the second week of class so that alternate arrangements can be made.

Late Penalties and Missed Tests and Exams:

Late assignments will be penalized by two percent (2%) a day, excluding weekends. To submit a late essay, upload it to TurnItIn via Moodle when it's finished, and then hand in a paper copy. WE WILL NOT GRADE PAPERS THAT WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED IN HARD COPY. Missed midterms and exams without valid medical documentation cannot be re-written and will result in a grade of zero for that component of the course.

Email Etiquette:

Your instructors receive a large volume of email each day, so, while we do our best to respond to emails quickly, you can expect responses to take between 2-3 business days. Be aware that we often receive a particularly large number of student emails closer to assignment deadlines, tests, and exams, and the increase may result in longer response times. Please check the syllabus before emailing a question. Also, avoid emailing questions about how to use MLA style (it's your responsibility to look this up). In short, don't use email as a substitute for doing the work that you should be able to do on your own, and we will be happy to answer your messages.

Equity:

Every member of the York University community is entitled to equitable treatment, without harassment or discrimination on the grounds prohibited the Ontario Human Rights Code, including race, ancestry, place of origin, gender identity and gender expression, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, family and marital status, and disability. Derogatory language that targets people and/or groups on the basis of these protected grounds contributes to an inequitable environment and will not be tolerated. The one exception to this rule is quoting directly from or analyzing the language used in the texts we are studying, some of which include racist, sexist, etc. terms. If you do so, be sure that you're doing it to engage with the text and its concerns, not to "get away with it." The difference will be apparent to anyone listening.

Disability and Academic Accommodation:

Students with documented learning, mental health, physical, sensory, and/or medical disabilities are entitled to appropriate accommodation tailored to their specific needs. These accommodations are your right. If you require accommodation, you are encouraged to contact Counselling and Disability Services (<http://cds.info.yorku.ca/>) as soon as possible to determine an accommodation plan and complete the relevant paperwork so that your needs can be met in this (and your other) course(s).