

ENGLISH 4730F: Graphically Canadian
Brescia University College
University of Western Ontario

Instructor: Dr. Dominick Grace

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Mon 8:30-11:30 BR 302

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Office Hours TBA

Course Description

Though dominated in North America by American artists and publishing companies, the comics industry has seen more than its fair share of successful and influential Canadian cartoonists and graphic novelists. Rand Holmes offered a rare Canadian voice in the underground movement; figures such as Richard Comely and George Freeman revived the possibility of the Canadian superhero (after a brief flowering of domestic genre comics during the WWII years), laying the foundations for the emergence of later Canadian mainstream cartoonists such as John Byrne and Todd McFarlane; figures such as David Boswell, Seth and Chester Brown were and remain major figures in the alternative comics movement; Dave Sim helped redefine the possibilities of comics with his complex and ambitious series *Cerebus*; and recently emerging figures such as Jeff Lemire, Bryan Lee O'Malley, and Kate Beaton are opening up new pathways, such as the melding of alternate and mainstream represented by Lemire's career, the influence of manga on O'Malley, and the exploitation of the internet as represented by Beaton's on-line strip *Hark, a Vagrant*. This course will study selected works by some of these creators. The course will cover a minimum of eight graphic novels or equivalents as well as selected secondary reading.

Assigned Texts

Beaton, Kate. *Hark, a Vagrant*

Boswell, David. *Reid Fleming, World's Toughest Milkman*

Brown, Chester. *Ed the Happy Clown*

---. *Louis Riel: Tenth Anniversary Edition*

Lemire, Jeff. *Essex County*

O'Malley, Bryan Lee. *Scott Pilgrim Vol. 1*

Seth. *It's a Good Life, If You Don't Weaken*

Sim, Dave. *Jaka's Story*

Diana Tamblyn TBA

Evaluation methods

Class participation: 15%

Critical review (short paper on a secondary resource): 10%

Short paper (1500 words): 15%

Seminar (including written report): 25%

Major essay (3000 words): 35%

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, the successful student will

1. have a basic understanding of the history and development of Canadian comics;
2. have a basic understanding of various comics media and genres
3. be able to read correctly and critically a graphic narrative sequence;
4. be able to analyze how graphic novelists use the devices of their medium;
5. be able to apply secondary materials to their understanding of graphic novels;
5. be able to write at a high level of accomplishment, with grammatical accuracy, logical structure, and deep analytical content

CLASS SCHEDULE

Seminars MAY begin as early as Sept. 16, if someone wants to tackle *Scott Pilgrim*; otherwise, they will begin on Sept. 23. Enrolment dictates that in most weeks, there will be two presentations, but there will be no more than two. Ideally, each presenter will lead the class for half of the class time (i.e. one and a half hours), but NOT by presenting a 1.5 hour seminar. The formal presentation should allow room for, even encourage, discussion.

Sept. 9 Introduction
Sept. 16 *Scott Pilgrim* Vol. 1
Sept. 23 *Essex County*
Sept. 30 *Essex County; Reid Fleming, World's Toughest Milkman*
Critical review due

Oct. 7 *Reid Fleming, World's Toughest Milkman*
Oct. 21 *It's a Good Life, If You Don't Weaken*
Oct. 28 *Ed the Happy Clown*
Nov. 4 *Ed the Happy Clown; Louis Riel*
Short essay due

Nov. 11 *Louis Riel; Jaka's Story*
Nov. 18 *Jaka's Story*
Nov. 25 Tamblyn
Dec. 2 *Hark, a Vagrant*
Major essay due

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> . If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2013/pg117.html>

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html . The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm> . The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> . Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.