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## ENG 3504 001: Film and Literature

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**English 3504, Film and Literature:  
"Comics, Graphic Narratives, and the Movies: Expanding the Boundaries of Film"**

Dr. Robin L. Murray

Office: CH 3351

Office Hours: TR 2-3:30, W 1-3 & by appointment

Fall 2017: TR 3:30-5:10

Phone: 549-0199 before 10

**Course Description:**

This section of ENG 3504, Film and Literature, will explore comics, graphic novels, and film as “expanded cinema” or as Paul Wells suggests In *Animation and America* "art-works transcending paradigm[s] by using their aesthetic specificity to create symbolic interpretations of more complex and contradictory aspects of human experience." This section of 3504 will explore the boundaries of comics, graphic novels, animation, and adaptation as interpretive "artworks" in multiple genres of film and literature.

Themes for this course include the following:

Identity & Culture, Genre, Form, & Poetics, Media, Technology & Popular Culture

**Please note: We will be using D2L for this class.**

- D2L Student Orientation: <https://online.eiu.edu/d2l/home/6909>
- For IT Help, please call the Help Desk at 217-581-HELP.

**Texts:**

About Comics:

McCloud, *Understanding Comics*

Graphic Novels read in groups:

Abouet, *Aya: Life in Yop City*

Barry, *One Hundred Demons*

Moore, *Watchmen*

Spiegelman, *Maus: A Survivor's Tale*

Graphic Novels read individually:

Grant, *Tank Girl Apocalypse*

Johnson, *Incognegro*

Satrapa, *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*

Tan, *The Arrival*

Wilson, *Ms. Marvel, Volume I*

Yang, *American Born Chinese*

**Course Objectives:** The following outlines the course objectives:

Students completing this course will:

- a. Identify and analyze the historical forces that helped shape the development of various national and world cinemas, including industrial, technological, and cultural influences through both readings and film screenings.
- b. Identify and analyze the emergence of prominent world film movements.
- c. Evaluate the uses of camera, editing, lighting, sound, and acting, as well as their contributions to the construction of meaning for audiences.
- d. Analyze how cinema reveals and responds to the social, economic, and cultural contexts of their production.
- e. Examine how meaning in cinema is filtered through various cultural contexts through both readings and film screenings.

- f. Identify, critique and apply film theories in relation to global historical contexts through both readings and film screenings.
- g. Write analytically and effectively about film in relation to its historical and cultural contexts.

**Learning Goals:** Course objectives are designed to help students achieve each of four learning goals of general education and university-wide assessment as follows:

### I. Critical Thinking

EIU graduates question, examine, evaluate, and respond to problems or arguments by:

- Asking essential questions and engaging diverse perspectives.
- Seeking and gathering data, information, and knowledge from experience, texts, graphics, and media.
- Understanding, interpreting, and critiquing relevant data, information, and knowledge.
- Synthesizing and integrating data, information, and knowledge to infer and create new insights Anticipating, reflecting upon, and evaluating implications of assumptions, arguments, hypotheses, and conclusions.
- Creating and presenting defensible expressions, arguments, positions, hypotheses, and proposals.

### II. Writing and Critical Reading

EIU graduates write critically and evaluate varied sources by:

- Creating documents appropriate for specific audiences, purposes, genres, disciplines, and professions.
- Crafting cogent and defensible applications, analyses, evaluations, and arguments about problems, ideas, and issues.
- Producing documents that are well organized, focused, and cohesive.
- Using appropriate vocabulary, mechanics, grammar, diction, and sentence structure.
- Understanding, questioning, analyzing, and synthesizing complex textual, numeric, and graphical sources.
- Evaluating evidence, issues, ideas, and problems from multiple perspectives.
- Collecting and employing source materials ethically and understanding their strengths and limitations.

### III. Speaking and Listening

EIU graduates prepare, deliver, and critically evaluate presentations and other formal speaking activities by:

- Collecting, comprehending, analyzing, synthesizing and ethically incorporating source material.
- Adapting formal and impromptu presentations, debates, and discussions to their audience and purpose.
- Developing and organizing ideas and supporting them with appropriate details and evidence.
- Using effective language skills adapted for oral delivery, including appropriate vocabulary, grammar, and sentence structure.
- Using effective vocal delivery skills, including volume, pitch, rate of speech, articulation, pronunciation, and fluency.
- Employing effective physical delivery skills, including eye contact, gestures, and movement.
- Using active and critical listening skills to understand and evaluate oral communication.

### IV. Responsible Citizenship

EIU graduates make informed decisions based on knowledge of the physical and natural world and human history and culture by:

- Engaging with diverse ideas, individuals, groups, and cultures.
- Applying ethical reasoning and standards in personal, professional, disciplinary, and civic contexts.
- Participating formally and informally in civic life to better the public good.
- Applying knowledge and skills to new and changing contexts within and beyond the classroom.

**Course Requirements:**

1. **Entrance Card Discussion:** Once a week you will complete an **entrance card** answering a question about the film(s) screened and/or text read for that class. These will be both “quizzes” and discussion starters.
2. **Group Presentations:** Members of groups of three or four will present one of four graphic novels to the rest of the class. A handout will be provided.
3. **Final Exam:** This exam will be cumulative. It will provide an opportunity to internalize material read for class as a group and as a class, as well as apply what you’ve learned to the films viewed in the class. You may use your film log for this exam!
4. **Two traditional or digital “paper”:** You will also write **two “papers,”** one due at midterm and one due by the final class session. Handouts will be provided for each of these projects.
  - The first paper will give you the opportunity to review one of the films on the course calendar through a blog entry of approximately 1000 words.
  - The second paper will allow you to look beyond films screened for class to examine a sub-genre of the graphic novel and/or graphic film adaptation in a paper of approximately 1500 words. This can come in the form of a traditional essay or a video essay, a wiki, a podcast with script, or some other digital format (as long as it meets the criteria on the handout).
5. **Film Log:** This Log will offer a place for you to write brief responses to the films we watch for class. These should be informal and approximately 150 words and can be completed on the film analysis worksheets. Respond to them in relation to Film Narrative and Style or our class theme (graphic narrative).

**Grades:** Grades will be determined as follows for a total of 100%:

<b>Entrance Card Discussions</b> -----	<b>20%</b>
<b>Group Presentation</b> -----	<b>10%</b>
<b>Final Exam</b> -----	<b>20%</b>
<b>Paper I Blog</b> -----	<b>10 %</b>
<b>Final “Paper” and Proposal</b> -----	<b>20%</b>
<b>Film Log</b> -----	<b>20%</b>
	<hr/> <b>100%</b>

## **Grading of Entrance Cards, Presentations, and Papers:**

Discussion Entrance Card grades will be based on analytical complexity and completed criteria.

“Paper” grades will be based on the following areas in relation to the media chosen for the projects: Audience awareness, organization, development, sentence structure, word choice, grammar/usage/mechanics. The first three areas will be weighted more heavily than the second three (60% vs. 40%). I will also distribute the English Department’s grade analysis in class and a paper rubric in class and on D2L.

Presentations will be evaluated according to a rubric I will distribute in class and on D2L. Groups should also turn in any class handouts or visuals.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

**Plagiarism:** The English Department states, "Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism -- 'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work' -- has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of "F" in the course."

**Electronic Writing Portfolio:** This class is a writing intensive class, so you may submit your paper as a writing portfolio sample, following the instructions on the CASL Website. Submissions must be made during the course of the class to receive my approval. Please note that the Writing Center is available for help with all writing assignments, as well. Take advantage of this free service.

**Writing Center:** Ambitious students can also seek help from the Writing Center. Call for an appointment (581-5920) or visit ((CH3110) at any point in the writing process, from brainstorming, planning and drafting, to final editing. Bring your assignment sheet and any written work and/or sources with you. The Writing Center is open Monday-Thursday, 9-3 and 6-9, and Friday from 9-1.

**Please Note:** Students seeking Teacher Certification in English Language Arts should provide each of their English department professors with the yellow form, “Application for English department Approval to Student Teach.” These are available on a rack outside the office of Dr. Melissa Ames.

**Also Note:** You must complete all major assignments to complete this course.

## Fall 2017 English 3504 Tentative Schedule, Subject to Change

### August

- 22 Introduction to the course and each other. Review of Film Narrative and Style. Read *Understanding Comics* for August 29 and prepare for entrance card.
- 24 Film Screening and Discussion: *Understanding Comics* and Film Art and Style documentaries
- 29 **Entrance Card.** *Understanding Comics* Discussion. More Graphic Novel Introductions. Introduce group novel presentations and paper 1 blog. Read *The Arrival* for September 5 and prepare for entrance card.
- 31 Film Screening and Discussion: *Hugo* (2011). Complete Film Log.

### September

- 5 **Entrance Card.** Discuss *The Arrival* and practice reading frames. Further discuss the group graphic novel presentations. Introduce post-apocalyptic graphic novels. Read *Tank Girl* for September 12 and prepare for entrance card.
- 7 Film Screening and Discussion: *When the Wind Blows* (1986). Complete Film Log.
- 12 **Entrance Card.** Discuss *Tank Girl* and connect with *When the Wind Blows*. Discuss superhero graphic novels and their offshoots. Group I students will prepare their presentation of *Watchmen* for September 19
- 14 Film Screening and Discussion: *Tank Girl*. Prepare for entrance card on 9/19. Complete Film Log.
- 19 **Entrance Card.** Group Presentation I: *Watchmen* and work with novel and film. Read *Ms. Marvel* for September 26 and prepare for entrance card.
- 21 Film Screening and Discussion: *Watchmen* (2009). Complete Film Log.
- 26 **Entrance Card.** Discuss *Ms. Marvel* and connect with *Watchmen* film and presentation. Discuss the memoir graphic novel and its offshoots. Group II will prepare their presentation for *Maus* for October 3.
- 28 Film Screening and Discussion: *Wonder Woman* (2017). Prepare for entrance card on 10/3. Complete Film Log.

### October

- 3 **Entrance Card.** Group Presentation II: *Maus* and work with novel and film. Prepare for midterm on October 10 and Draft of Paper 1 Blog for October 12 Peer Review and Conferences.
- 5 Film Screening and Discussion: *Snowpiercer* (2013). Complete Film Log.
- 10 **Paper 1 Blog Draft Due for Peer Review and Conferences**
- 12 **Paper 1 Blog Draft Due for Peer Review and Conferences**
- 17 **Paper 1 Blog due.** Introduce Paper 2 project. Library Talk and workshop. Group III will prepare their presentation for *100 Demons* for October 24. Film Logs due by end of class.
- 19 Film Screening and Discussion: *X-Men: Days of Future Past* (2014). Prepare for Entrance card on 10/24. Complete Film Log.
- 24 **Entrance Card.** Group III: *100 Demons* and work with novel and film. Prepare for EVFF Film. Group IV will prepare their presentation of *Aya: Life in Yop City* for October 31
- 26 Film Screening and Discussion: *Suicide Squad* (2016) for EVFF. Prepare for Entrance Card on October 31. Complete Film Log.
- 31 **Entrance Card.** Group IV: *Aya: Life in Yop City* and work with novel and film. Read *American Born Chinese* and complete a proposal for Paper 2 project for November 7.

## November

- 2 Film Screening and Discussion: *Aya of Yop City* (2013) or *Sita Sings the Blues* (2008).
- 7 **Entrance Card. Paper 2 project proposal due.** Discuss *American Born Chinese* and connect with *Aya*. Read *Persepolis* for November 14 and prepare for entrance card.
- 9 Film Screening and Discussion: *The Monkey King* or *Sita Sings the Blues* (2008). Complete Film Log.
- 14 **Entrance Card.** Discuss *Persepolis* and connect with *ABC* and movie. Read *Incognegro* for November 28 (after Thanksgiving break) and prepare a draft of paper project 2 for December 5.
- 16 Film Screening and Discussion: *Persepolis* (2007). Complete Film Log.
- 21 and 23 Thanksgiving Break---No Class!
- 28 **Entrance Card.** Discuss *Incognegro* and its contexts. The graphic novel's exploration of identity comes of age.
- 30 Film Screening and Discussion: *History of Violence* (2005) or *Devil in a Blue Dress* (1995). Complete Film Log.

## December

- 5 **Paper 2 Project Draft due for peer review and conferences.** Prepare for final exam.
- 7 Film Screening and Discussion: graphic adaptation chosen by the class.
- 12 **Paper 2 Project due.** Final Exam from 2:45-4:45 p.m. Film Log due at end of class.