F21

MCAD
Class Syllabus

Course Name: Readings in the Graphic Novel
Course Number: AH 3875 01
Class Meets: R, 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM, 08/23/21 - 12/10/21

Room Assignment (if applicable): 410
Class Google Meet Link:
Faculty Name: Pistelli, John
MCAD Email Address: john_pistelli@mcad.edu
MCAD Telephone Number, Academic Affairs: 612-874-3694
Office Hours: Thursdays 5:30-6:30, Rm 308 or by Google Meet appt.
Office Google Meet Link:

Faculty Biography:
John Pistelli holds a PhD in English literature from the University of Minnesota. He has academic interests that include modern fiction, literary theory, comics, and creative writing. His fiction, criticism, and poetry have appeared in many venues.

Course Description:
The graphic novel is an art form that offers the best of both worlds. While gaining legitimacy as a literary/art form, it retains the excitement and unique properties of reading a comic book. Students in this course read, discuss, and analyze five graphic novels, as well as engage in extensively critical scholarship on and about the graphic novel form. Looking at graphic novels in the genres of mystery, superhero, manga, memoir, and works beyond categorization, students examine how these stories are structured: the forms of novel, novella, and short story help differentiate and explain the subtleties of these forms. The class focuses on social, structural, and thematic issues of these specific texts and explores the possibilities of the form itself. This course fulfills a Histories, Places and Philosophies requirement for Humanities and Sciences. Prerequisite: Introduction to Art and Design: History 2 or faculty permission

Outcomes:
Identify the nuances of the graphic novel, and the factors that set it apart from other art and narrative forms. Explain the genre, story type and character, as reflected in assigned texts and related works. Analyze and critique key critical texts. Demonstrate an advanced ability to read, write about, and explain graphic novels.

Methodologies:
Lectures, Discussions, Readings, Research/Analysis, Screenings, Class Exercises, Online Chat, Individual Projects, Group Projects, Writing Assignments, Written Proposals

Required Textbooks:
Kyoko Okazaki, *Helter Skelter: Fashion Unfriendly*
Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons, *Watchmen*
Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis*
Héctor Germán Oesterheld and Alberto Breccia, *The Eternaut 1969*
Benoît Peeters and François Schuiten, *The Theory of the Grain of Sand*

Canvas:
https://mcad.instructure.com/courses/1729

Miscellaneous:
Our section's theme is *Classics of World Comics* ("classics" here implies enduring influence and is not intended to signal approval). We will read graphic novels from the U.K., France, Argentina, Japan, and Iran, including recent translations, and consider the relations among literary and artistic form, culture, history, politics, and philosophy.

Course Calendar:
Please see the Canvas site for more detailed information on readings, assignments, and meetings. There will be regular short discussion and writing assignments not listed below.

1. INTRODUCTION

08/26 - Introduction to the course

09/02 - Introduction to the topic

2. GENDERS, BODIES, MANGA

09/09 - Okazaki, *Helter Skelter: Fashion Unfriendly*

09/16 - Karatsu, "Female Voice and Occidentalism in Mika Ninagawa's *Helter Skelter* (2012): Adapting Kyoko Okazaki to the Screen"

3. THE SUPERHERO IN HISTORY AND TIME

09/23 - Moore and Gibbons, *Watchmen*

09/30 - Bernard and Carter, "Alan Moore and the Graphic Novel: Confronting the Fourth Dimension"

4. THE GRAPHIC MEMOIR AS WORLD LITERATURE

10/07 - Satrapi, *Persepolis*

10/14 - Darda, "Graphic Ethics: Theorizing the Face in Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis*"

5. ANTI-IMPERIALISM AND POPULAR CULTURE

10/21 - Oesterheld and Solano López, from *The Eternaut*, Oesterheld and Breccia, *The Eternaut 1969*

10/28 - Caballero, "*The Eternaut*: Superpowers and Underdogs"

6. THE ARCHITECTURE OF MAGICAL REALISM

11/04 - Peeters and Schuiten, *The Theory of the Grain of Sand*

11/11 - Baetens, from *Rebuilding Story Worlds:* The Obscure Cities *by Schuiten and Peeters*

7. WRITING THE RESEARCH PAPER

11/18 - Introduction to Writing and Research

11/25 - No Class **(Paper Proposal due by 11:59PM on 11/23)**

12/02 - Research Day **(Annotated Bibliography due by 11:59PM)**

12/09 - Final Paper Presentations **(Final Paper due by 11:59PM)**

Email Usage: Email is used at MCAD as the official means of communicating with the student body. Official college announcements regarding policy, classes, registration, deadlines, etc. are delivered via email. Students are expected to check their MCAD email frequently and are held responsible for all official information communicated to them via the email system. Misuse or misrepresentation of official communications by students will result in disciplinary action.

Attendance: MCAD students are expected to attend and participate in all enrolled courses in order to successfully complete them. Students have a responsibility to the group and for their own learning. Participation and performance are factored into the course grade. Absences and tardiness have consequences that will result in lowered or failing grades. To uphold this expectation, students must participate in all scheduled class sessions and complete all asynchronous course work and course assignments. Attendance will be taken for all on-campus small group discussions and demonstrations for COVID-19 contact tracing.

It is critical that all students attend the first meeting of all synchronous and in-person classes; faculty may drop students from a course who do not attend the first class meeting and they risk losing their spot to another student on the waitlist. Faculty will determine the balance of synchronous and asynchronous structures in service of the course and its learning outcomes, and will set expectations accordingly. Students should be prepared to utilize their computer's camera function to facilitate class engagement. Students are expected to actively participate in all class activities regardless of delivery method.

In the case of extended illness or other legitimate absences that may keep the student from attending class, students must contact their faculty member to determine how to make up class time and assignments. **Students are responsible for obtaining class materials**. Faculty members will alert their department chair. Faculty are not obligated to reteach a class a student has missed.

Special COVID-19 attendance policy statement

If students are absent from class due to COVID-19 they must email their faculty and staysafestudent@mcad.edu. Documented absences due to COVID-19 can be excused and will not necessarily affect grades. Documentation could be a doctor's note or an official diagnosis from the issuing lab. Faculty will work with students to determine how to make up class time and assignments.

Grading Policy: Grades consider student performance of assignments listed on each course syllabus, participation in class, magnitude of improvement, attendance, level of project difficulty, timeliness of project completion, compliance with class policies, and effort/dedication. + or - may be added to letter grades at the discretion of the faculty member. The MFA program employs a pass/fail grading system and does not use letter grades.
A = Excellent work, progress far beyond expectations of effort and outcomes, full participation
B = Good work, course requirements completed, preparedness for more advanced study
C = Average work, course requirements completed, preparedness for more advanced study
D = Passing but below average work, some promise of improvement
F = Work not acceptable, or course requirements not completed

Grading Procedure / Criteria:
Grading will be based on three areas (more detail about assignments will be given in class):
1. 30% participation (this includes being prepared for classes, speaking in classes, posting to the course discussion boards, and completing all assignments)
2. 30% report on a graphic novel (you will present a report/review on a graphic novel not assigned in the course to the class)
3. 40% research paper (you will submit a final research paper on one of the course texts; there will be a process component to this assignment and a research component to the final essay, so the 40% of your grade will be distributed over various components of the project, such as writing a proposal and preparing a bibliography)

Incomplete Policy: To receive a grade of Incomplete for a class a student must meet with the chair of the department or program director in which the class is taught to discuss the circumstances of the request.

Grade Notification: Midterm grades will be posted on MyMCAD between weeks 7-10 of the semester. Final grades will be posted on MyMCAD the week following commencement.

Archiving Your Work: Students are required to submit documentation of their work for each class, every semester. Please follow this naming convention: LastName_FirstName_ ProjectTitle.ext. Ex: oneill_co_DrawingA1.png

The media formats should follow MCAD archiving standards, which are found at: http://kb.mcad.edu/index.php?category=64

Samples should be accompanied by a Word document containing relevant information, found at: http://kb.mcad.edu/index.php?article=166 - Text Listing

Academic Deficiencies: MCAD notifies students of deficiencies in academic performance through the student alert form at any time throughout the semester. Notices are placed in student mailboxes. Students are encouraged to contact the faculty member immediately and take steps to remedy the deficiency. If a student has two or more alerts the student will be contacted by the Dean of Student Affairs. A subsequent meeting will be scheduled to help the student analyze the problem and make realistic plans to remedy the situation and succeed in school.

Class Recordings: While the college does not require the recording of virtual classes, faculty may elect to do so for a variety of reasons that may include accommodating students in different time zones or for students to revisit the materials covered. In such cases, faculty must inform students at the beginning of each recorded session. Faculty who share the recordings with students will limit file permissions to view-only so as to respect the privacy of individual students. For instructions on how to record in Google Meet, this brief video provides step-by-step instructions. (**Policy for Readings in the Graphic Novel**: Students may record in-person or synchronous course meetings for their own purposes at any time but may not disseminate the recordings beyond the class without permission.)

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This information is taken from the Student Handbook. You are expected to adhere to college policy.

A. THE LEARNING CENTER: The Learning Center provides interdisciplinary support for all MCAD students, including face-to-face and online tutoring, an online writing and learning lab (OWLL), small and large group workshops and in-class presentations, as well as academic accommodation services for students with disabilities. The Learning Center works with students to make them better learners and prioritizes equal access

and opportunity for all students. Tutoring areas include writing, software and technical skills, time management, and study skills. For more information on the Learning Center's Hours, instructions for how to make an appointment, and access to the MCAD OWLL, visit learningcenter.mcad.edu or call (612) 874-3671.

B. NONBINARY PRONOUNS/INSTITUTIONALLY RECOGNIZED NAMES: MCAD strives to be an inclusive and welcoming environment for all students, alumni, faculty, and staff. Students may designate the use of an institutionally recognized name (previously referred to as alternate or preferred name) and pronouns. The forms for institutionally recognized names and pronouns are available on my.mcad.edu and are reviewed by Records Office staff upon submission. These forms also offer students the option of updating their email addresses via the Help Desk. Please note that the Records Office will reject any name submission that is offensive, inappropriate, misleading, or otherwise represents a use of the form in bad faith.

Institutionally recognized names and pronouns will appear on faculty rosters. Legal names will continue to be used as necessary in instances including, but not limited to, student accounts, responses to verification inquiries such as verification requests, financial aid documents, payroll, official transcripts, conduct and academic honesty records, and federal immigration documents.

Institutionally recognized names and pronouns are considered non-directory information under MCAD's FERPA policy.

Students wishing to update their records with legal name and/or gender changes will use a separate process and should contact the Records Office for more information.

C. LINKEDINLEARNING.COM: Students can access a wide variety of online tutorials at Lynda.com using their MCAD login information: https://www.linkedin.com/learning/me?u=56747417

D. COURSE EVALUATIONS: Course evaluations are an integral part of MCAD curriculum development. Student feedback on courses are instrumental in creating a vibrant, informed, and robust learning community at MCAD. For these, and many other reasons, students are encouraged at the end of the semester to provide extensive feedback on course evaluations.

E. CELL PHONE POLICY (optional): Cell phones should be put on mute or vibrate during class. Calls can be made during breaks, as well as before or after class.

F. CREDIT HOUR DEFINITION: In lecture/discussion courses requiring outside preparation, 1 hour of credit represents 50 minutes contact time each week in class, and 2 hours of work outside of class. Therefore, a 3-credit lecture course requires 2.5 hours in class per week and approximately 6 hours outside of class.

In studio/laboratory courses, 1 hour of credit requires a minimum of 1.5 hours contact hours each week in class and approximately 1.5 hours of work outside of class. Therefore, a 3-credit studio course represents a minimum of 4.5 contact hours in class and approximately 4.5 hours of work outside of class per week.

In online courses, 1 hour of credit requires approximately 3 hours of work per week for all activities (i.e., reading, viewing, making, scanning, responding to discussion threads, collaborating, etc.). Therefore, a 3-credit online course requires approximately 9 hours per week to complete the necessary activities.

G. CLASSROOM DEVICE USAGE POLICY: Participation in a classroom community has many benefits, but students will also find that along with those benefits come responsibilities:
+ Students are responsible for bringing laptops to class when scheduled to do so.
+ Student laptops should be in good working condition. If a student is experiencing problems with a laptop, it is the student's responsibility to go to the Help Desk for help: https://intranet.mcad.edu/department/help-desk. Technical difficulties such as problems printing, uploading, saving, or retrieving files do not excuse late or missing work.
+ During classroom discussion, demonstration, or lecture, students should not be connected to network resources unless students are specifically instructed to do so.
+ Chatting, using social media, or emailing is no more acceptable than talking on a cell phone during class time. Non-class related use of a laptop during class time, including working on homework for other courses, may result in restriction of laptop use or a grade penalty.
+ Unless otherwise indicated, students should never use headphones during class time.
+ Students should always store copies of files in two backup locations. Students should never store the only copy of a paper/project on the student server space in case the server is down, and students are unable to access the paper/project.
+ Recording by instructor permission only. See the MCAD Student Handbook for the full policy.

H. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY / SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY: Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in MCAD courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action.

The MCAD Student Handbook defines academic dishonesty as follows: Submission of false records of academic achievement; cheating on assignments or examinations; altering, forging or misusing a College academic record, document or funds; taking, acquiring or using test materials without faculty permission; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records to obtain grades, honors, awards or professional endorsement in a dishonest manner; plagiarizing.
+ Plagiarizing: Quoting uncited materials, visual or written; presenting the work of others as your own; using work of other MCAD students without their express permission.

+ Using the Same Work in Different Courses: Students may not submit the same work for more than one class without the knowledge and consent of all faculty.
+ Consequences for plagiarizing and double submissions may include failing the assignment or the course, or academic probation.

Within this course, a student who is responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to an including an "F" for the course. If students have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, they should consult with their professor.

Using the Same Assignment in Different Courses: Studio projects are assigned and assessed according to the specific learning objectives for each course. Occasionally students may be assigned a project in one course that shares many of the learning objectives of an assignment given in a different course. While turning in the same assignment for two courses is not encouraged, students who wish to do so are required to first notify the faculty member of each course and get permission. Faculty may assign additional requirements. Failure to notify faculty can result in failure of the assignments in both courses.

I. ACCESSIBILITY AND EQUAL ACCESS: Persons with disabilities have a right to equal opportunity as prescribed by law. MCAD is responsible for creating a barrier-free environment while empowering students to grow toward independence and self-assertion. It is the individual student's responsibility to make their needs known and request accommodation. First-time disclosures must be made via appointment with the Learning Center or via our Disability Disclosure Form. For more information, visit learningcenter.mcad.edu or call (612) 874-3671.