***The Graphic Medicine Manifesto***

*By Ian Williams, Susan Merrill Squier, Michael J. Green, Kimberly R. Myers, Scott T. Smith, MK Czerwiec*

IDH2930 136G

Fall 2018; Monday, 8th period (3:00-3:50)

**Location:** C2-41A

**Instructors:** Ariel Pomputius

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**Class Description**:

Through examination of the book The Graphic Medicine Manifesto, this class explores the growth and development of the graphic novel genre as an important and valuable means of exploring illness narratives, experiences with the healthcare system, and training for healthcare professions.

Graphic medical novels entertain, but the medium can convey the emotion of a more serious story as easily as the humor of a comedic tale. In the words of MK Czerwiec, author of webcomic *Comic Nurse*, “Comics are an excellent way to access our stories,” because “they build one bit at a time, helping us organize our thoughts and feelings.” Brian Fies, author of the graphic illness novel Mom’s Cancer says “Comics were the right medium for the story I wanted to tell. They meld words and pictures to convey an idea with more economy and grace than either could alone.” MK Czerwiec, again, explains that comics “can be fun, even when a hard topic is discussed.” These authors are only two in a growing number who find that comics are the best way for them to express a serious topic. Indeed, there has been a proliferation of graphic novels detailing illness experiences and, more recently, detailing experiences of being a healthcare provider.

The authors of The Graphic Medicine Manifesto include healthcare professionals and educators who helped bring the use of graphic novels and comics in the medical field to the attention of academics and the health science community. As each author adds their voice to the scholarship, the reader examines the use of graphic medicine to encourage communication between patients and healthcare professionals, to release the emotional and mental strain felt by those providing patient care, to find humor in difficult situations, and to understand better how disease and disability affect the patient.

Since the book is short, this class aims to use The Graphic Medicine Manifesto as a textbook or introduction to the genre; students will also read and present on additional works by healthcare professionals and patients that they will select themselves. While a list of suggested graphic medicine titles will be offered, students are welcome to present on any graphic novel that they can argue meets the criteria of graphic medicine.

Assignments will include two presentations on the graphic novel of your choice, a final project that can either be an academic paper or a creative work such as a short graphic novel, and an end-of-the-semester portfolio, which should include creative in-class work and a reflection on the course.

**Class Schedule and Reading Assignments**:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Readings** | **Supplemental deadlines, topics, and materials** |
| August  27 | Getting to know you! |  | Sign up for Presentations |
| September 3 | LABOR DAY-NO CLASS |  |  |
| September 10 | Introduction to Comics |  | Presentations Start  **Required:**  How to read a comic book:  <https://www.vox.com/2015/2/25/8101837/ody-c-comic-book-panels>  What is a graphic novel  <http://dw-wp.com/resources/what-is-a-graphic-novel/>  How not to write comics criticism  <http://www.dylanmeconis.com/how-not-to-write-comics-criticism/> |
| September 17 | Introduction to Graphic Medicine | GMM intro | **Required:**  Green Michael J, Myers Kimberly R. Graphic medicine: use of comics in medical education and patient care BMJ 2010; 340 :c863 |
| September 24 | Comics as Scholarship | GMM 1 | Project Proposal due |
| October  1 | Applications for Graphic Medicine | GMM 2 | Feedback on Proposals due  Vaccines Work: Here are the Facts  <https://thenib.com/vaccines-work-here-are-the-facts-5de3d0f9ffd0> |
| October  8 | Telling Your Story via Comics | GMM 3 |  |
| October  15 | Comics in the Classroom and the Clinic | GMM 4 | **Required:**  Henneman JR. In Shadow and Light—Images of Transformation Through Breast Cancer. JAMA. 2018;319(6):532–534. doi:10.1001/jama.2017.21752 |
| October  22 | Guest Lecture: Signe Wilkinson |  |  |
| October  29 | Depicting the Invisible | GMM 5 | **Required:**  Depression Part Two  <http://hyperboleandahalf.blogspot.com/2013/05/depression-part-two.html> |
| November 5 | Everyone can be a Creator | GMM 6 |  |
| November 12 | VETERANS DAY  No Class |  |  |
| November 19 | Comics to Explore Loss |  | **Required:**  Tom Hart Channels the Incalculable Loss of a Child in Rosalie Lightning  <https://www.pastemagazine.com/articles/2016/01/tom-hart-channels-the-incalculable-loss-of-a-child.html>  Annals Graphic Medicine: Natter 2017  Brian Fies’s A Fire Story <http://brianfies.blogspot.com/2017/11/an-animated-fire-story_8.html> |
| November 26 | Comics from the Provider Perspective |  | **Required:**  Anderson, P. F., Wescom, E., & Carlos, R. C. (2016). Difficult Doctors, Difficult Patients: Building Empathy*. J Am Coll Radiol*, 13(12 Pt B), 1590-1598.  Annals Graphic Medicine: Briatore 2017  Annals Graphic Medicine: Chang 2017  Annals Graphic Medicine: Roy 2017  Annals Graphic Medicine: Shooner 2017  Annals Graphic Medicine: Valluri 2016  Annals Graphic Medicine: Farris 2016  Annals Graphic Medicine: Farris 2017 |
| December 3 | Last Day of Class |  | Final Projects and Portfolios Due |

The schedule of student presentations is likely to change depending on the number of students enrolled.

**Flexibility Clause:**

We reserve the right to modify the class schedule listed above as needed. Any changes will be made well in advance and you will be immediately notified. Conflicts that arise due to a change in schedule can be discussed with us and will not be held against you. Scheduled Reading Assignments and Graded Assignments should not change, except due to unforeseen circumstances.

**Requirements**:

Note: all assignments must be completed in order to receive credit for the class.

1. Complete reading as assigned and be prepared to discuss in class.
2. Attend a minimum of 13 classes.
3. Attend a creative event and submit a brief reflection.
4. Compile a portfolio of in-class creative work and class reflection, to be turned in at the end of the semester.
5. Complete two in-class presentations of a graphic novel of your choice.
6. Complete a final project based on some topic covered in class. This final project can be an academic paper or a creative work, such as a short graphic novel.

**Assignments**

1. **Final Project Proposal**

The final project should integrate insights learned from the course. You may choose to do an academic paper addressing a topic of graphic medicine or a creative work, such as a short graphic novel. This proposal should be 300-500 words on what topic you would like to pursue for your final project, the importance of that topic, and how you will address the topic in your final project. Your final project proposal must be approved before you can start work on your final project.

1. **Attend a Creative Event**

There will be a list of creative events (exhibitions, film screenings, etc.) offered throughout the semester. You may choose one to attend and tell us about your experience in a 250 word reflection.

1. **Portfolio**

The End-of-Semester portfolio is a chance for you to explore comics and graphic medicine creatively and share the results. Your portfolio should include:

* 7 of your in-class or out-of-class creative works. These could be things done in class, started in class and completed outside class, journal comics drawn outside class, and re-worked versions of your assignments.
* A brief reflection on the course. This reflection can be presented as one page visually or as a brief written paragraph, 250 words minimum. You are welcome to upload a scanned copy of this portfolio online or turn in a physical copy in class.

1. **In-Class Presentations**

This assignment is a 5-10 minute presentation on the graphic medicine novel of your choice. While the syllabus includes a list of potential graphic novels available through the libraries at UF or the local public library, feel free to find your own examples of graphic novels you consider related to medicine. If you have questions on your selection, please email the instructor in advance. The date of this assignment is based on the sign-up sheet made available on the first day of class.

The day of your presentation, please submit a brief paragraph (250 words maximum) offering a review of the graphic novel you chose for your presentation. These paragraphs will be collected into a document and distributed to the class at the end of the semester.

1. **Final Project**

The final project should integrate insights learned from the course. You may choose to do an academic paper addressing a topic of graphic medicine or a creative work, such as a short graphic novel.

Academic Paper:

* 5-7 pages
* double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font
* MLA citations

Graphic Narrative/Comic:

* 3-8 pages

**Grading**:

* Attendance and in-class participation 35%
* Final Project (includes on-time proposal) 25%
* Two presentation assignments (15% each) 30%
* Reflection on the book and course, including portfolio of in-class work 10%

Creative works will be graded on effort and relevance to the class materials, not on the professionalism of the materials.

Failure to turn in any project will result in a failing grade.

**Grade scale for class points awarded:**

A             93-100

A-           90-92

B+           87-89

B             83-86

B-            80-82

C+ 77-79

C 73-76

C- 70-72

D+ 67-69

D 65-66

F Below 65

**Attendance:** Attendance in this course is mandatory. One absence will be allowed without a deduction of points; every absence beyond one will result in a reduction of 10 points from the final grade. One additional absence documented by a doctor’s note can be made up through special write up.

**Academic Honesty:** All students sign the following statement upon registration at the University of Florida: “I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.” As instructors for this course, we fully support the intent of the above statement and will not tolerate academic dishonesty.

**Student Responsibility:** Students are responsible for understanding all course policies and for accessing all course materials on the UF E-Learning Website through the URL listed above. All assignments should be submitted through the website and in hard copy when requested. Students are also responsible for checking their UF e-mail account for course notifications and for communicating with the instructors related to any situation that may hinder his or her progress or participation in the course.

**Disabilities:** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the instructor when students request accommodation.

**Suggestions for Graphic Medicine Novels**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Title and Author | Topic | Available at HSCL | Available at public library |
| *Not Funny Ha-Ha: A Handbook for Something Hard* by Leah Hayes | Abortion | X |  |
| *Take It As a Compliment* by Maria Stoian | Abuse | X |  |
| *Becoming Unbecoming*by Una | Abuse |  | X |
| *The Tale of One Bad Rat*by Bryan Talbot | Abuse |  | X |
| *Why I Killed Peter*by Olivier Ka | Abuse |  | X |
| *Sobriety: A Graphic Novel* by Daniel Maurer & Spencer Amundson | Addiction | X |  |
| *Sunny Side Up* by Jennifer L. Holm | Addiction |  | X |
| *The Alcoholic*by Jonathan Ames & Dean Haspiel | Addiction |  | X |
| *Can’t We Talk About Something More Pleasant?* by Roz Chast | Aging | X | X |
| *Daytripper*by Fábio Moon & Gabriel Bá | Aging |  | X |
| *Aliceheimer’s: Alzheimer’s Through the Looking Glass* by Dana Walrath | Alzheimer’s | X |  |
| *Tangles: A Story about Alzheimer’s, My Mother, and Me*by Sarah Leavitt | Alzheimer’s | X | X |
| *Drawing Autism*edited by Jill Mullin | Autism | X | X |
| *Marbles: Mania, Depression, Michelangelo, and Me: A Graphic Memoir*by Ellen Forney | Bipolar | X | X |
| *Cancer Vixen: A True Story* by Marisa Acocella Marchetto | Cancer | X |  |
| *Cancer Made Me a Shallower Person: A Memoir in Comics* by Miriam Engelberg | Cancer | X | X |
| *Don’t Go Where I Can’t Follow*by Anders Nilsen | Cancer |  | X |
| *Mom’s Cancer* by Brian Fies | Cancer | X | X |
| *The Story of My Tits*by Jennifer Hayden | Cancer | X | X |
| *Good Eggs: A Memoir*by Phoebe Potts | Childbirth |  | X |
| *The Yellow Monkey Emperor’s Classic of Chinese Medicine* by Damo Mitchell & Spencer Hill | Complementary Medicine | X |  |
| *Funny Misshapen Body: A Memoir*by Jeffrey Brown | Crohn’s |  | X |
| *Ghosts*by Raina Telgemeier | Cystic Fibrosis |  | X |
| *El Deafo*by Cece Bell & David Lasky | Deafness |  | X |
| *100 Months: The End of All Things*by John Hicklenton | Death |  | X |
| *Displacement*by Lucy Knisley | Death | X | X |
| *Doctors*by Dash Shaw | Death |  | X |
| *Special Exits: A Graphic Memoir*by Joyce Farmer | Death | X | X |
| *Bird in a Cage*by Rebecca Roher | Dementia |  | X |
| *Hyperbole and a Half: Unfortunate Situations, Flawed Coping Mechanisms, Mayhem, and Other Things That Happened*by Allie Brosh | Depression | X | X |
| *My Depression: A Picture Book*by Elizabeth Swados | Depression | X | X |
| *Hole in the Heart: Bringing Up Beth* by Henny Beaumont | Down Syndrome | X |  |
| *Epileptic*by David B. | Epilepsy | X | X |
| *Rosalie Lightning*by Tom Hart | Grief |  | X |
| *Health Care Reform: What It IS, Why It’s Necessary, How It Works*by Jonathan Gruber & H.P. Newquist | Health care reform | X |  |
| *Blue Pills: A Positive Love Story* by Frederik Peeters | HIV/AIDS | X | X |
| *Taking Turns: Stories from HIV/AIDS Care Unit 371*by MK Czerwiec | HIV/AIDS | X | X |
| *Pedro & Me: Friendship, Loss, & What I Learned* by Judd Winick | HIV/AIDS | X |  |
| *Second Avenue Caper: When Goodfellas, Divas, and Dealers Plotted Against the Plague*by Joyce Brabner & Mark Zingarelli | HIV/AIDS | X | X |
| *Seven Miles a Second*by David Wojnarowicz & James Romberger | HIV/AIDS |  | X |
| *Things to do in a Retirement Home Trailer Park: When You’re 29 and Unemployed…*by Aneurin Wright | Hospice Care | X |  |
| *Calling Dr. Laura*by Nicole J. Georges | LGBTQ Health |  | X |
| *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*by Alison Bechdel | LGBTQ Health |  | X |
| *Level Up* by Gene Luen Yang | Medical Education | X |  |
| *Psychiatric Tales: Eleven Graphic Stories about Mental Illness* by Darryl Cunningham | Mental Health | X | X |
| *Are You My Mother? A Comic Drama*by Alison Bechdel | Mental Health |  | X |
| *The Hospital Suite* by John Porcellino | Mental Health | X | X |
| *Couch Fiction: A Graphic Tale of Psychotherapy*by Philippa Perry & Junko Graat | Mental Health |  | X |
| *The Big Skinny: How I Changed My Fattitude, A Memoir* by Carol Lay | Obesity | X | X |
| *The Bad Doctor* by Ian Williams | OCD | X |  |
| *The Nao of Brown*by Glyn Dillon | OCD |  | X |
| *Pain is Really Strange* by Steve Haines | Pain | X |  |
| *My Degeneration: A Journey Through Parkinson’s*by Peter Dunlap-Shohl | Parkinson’s | X | X |
| *At War With Yourself* by Samuel C. Williams | PTSD | X |  |
| *Swallow Me Whole*by Nate Powell | Schizophrenia |  | X |
| *Embroideries*by Marjane Satrapi | Sexual Health |  | X |
| *For the Love of God, Marie!*By Jade Sarson | Sexual Health |  | X |
| *Black Hole*by Charles Burns | STDs |  | X |
| *Monsters*by Ken Dahl | STDs | X | X |
| *Trauma is Really Strange* by Steve Haines & Sophie Standing | Trauma | X |  |
| *Maus: A Survivor’s Tale*by Art Spiegelman | Trauma |  | X |
| *We Are On Our Own: A Memoir*by Miriam Katin | Trauma |  | X |
| *Signature Wound: Rocking TBI* by G.B. Trudeau | Veteran Health | X |  |
| *The Long Road Home: One Step At a Time* by G.B. Trudeau | Veteran Health | X |  |
| *The War Within: One More Step at a Time* by G.B. Trudeau | Veteran Health | X |  |
| *Alan’s War: The Memories of G.I. Alan Cope* by Emmanuel Guibert | Veteran Health | X | X |
| *Soldier’s Heart: The Campaign to Understand my WWII Veteran Father: A Daughter’s Memoir*by Carol Tyler | Veteran Health |  | X |

Note: This list is by no means a comprehensive list of graphic medicine novels. If you have graphic novels that you believe fit the criteria of graphic medicine, please feel free to present on those or talk to the instructors if you have any questions.