

## Bring Your Own Graphic Novel

ID2930: 29541

Monday, 5:10-6:00 (Period 10)

Location: Little 117

Spring 2023

**Instructor** Melina Jimenez

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(407) 340-4066

**Student hours** Fridays, 11:45am - 12:35pm

**In-person visits:** Matherly 220B

**Online visits:** [Zoom link](#)

**Instructor** Cody Paddack

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(850) 408-4492

### Welcome!

Welcome and thank you for signing up for this class! Please call us Melina and Cody. Throughout the course, we'll be reading and discussing graphic novels of your choosing from a range of genres (fantasy, horror, memoir, historic, among others) and for a range of audiences (children, young adult, and adult). We are not experts in the field of graphic novels, so much of this class will be about discovery and learning from each other. As we go through the course, we encourage you to push yourself and your peers to think deeply about the topics we encounter together, and to work on developing your voices as academic writers, creators, and critical thinkers.

If you are struggling with this course, with your other courses, or with life outside of the university, I invite you to talk to me or someone that you trust. Whether this is your first, last, or somewhere in-between year at UF, college life. Just talking about those feelings can help. If just talking with your instructors, your friends, or your family isn't enough, there is a list of campus resources on the last page of this syllabus to help you. I am happy to help you understand how these can be helpful for you.

You never own me personal information about your mental or physical health. However, you are always welcome to talk to me about whatever you're going through. If you tell me that you're having trouble, I'm not going to judge you or think less of you. If you need extra help or if you need to miss a class or need more time with an assignment, please ask. I will work with you to make sure you have the opportunity to engage with the material you may miss because of an illness or other life issues.

### Required Textbook and Materials

You will be reading at least 2 graphic novels per week. Rather than purchase them, we encourage you to borrow them from the Alachua County Library District. There are also small comics sections in Library West and the Education Library. Some weeks, you will also read an article, book chapter, or watch a video. These will be provided on Canvas.

### Course Description and Objectives

In this course, we will read a wide range of graphic novels and we will discuss how to read them, how to understand them, how to analyze and critique them, and where they fit in the scholarship of literature and literacy. Together, we will add to the scholarship of graphic novels through discussion, research, and writing.

- *Content:* Students will explain the concept of graphic novels and identify common elements of graphic novels, including but not limited to story, character, and visuals.
- *Critical Thinking:* Students will identify and analyze characteristics of graphic novels through a scholarly lens where they will conduct comparative analysis on themes, commentaries, and literary structures within the field of graphic novels.

- *Communication*: Students will articulate their thoughts, reflect their personal feelings, and communicate with others about their responses to the chosen texts. Achievement of all three learning outcomes will be assessed through in-class discussions, online discussion posts, and the Final Project.

### Evaluation of Grades

Assignments		Points
In-class Discussion	13 meetings	20 points each = 260
Online discussion posts and replies	5 posts	30 points each = 150
Final Project	1 project	90 points
Total		<b>500 points total</b>

### Attendance and Class Expectations

Attendance is required for class discussions on Mondays. You will find guiding questions for the discussion each week in the form of a discussion page. Please refer to the discussion page before class. The in-class discussions consist of small group discussions for most of the class, with a full class discussion for the last 15 minutes or so. You are expected to contribute in your small group discussions, but we recognize that full class discussions are a bit more intimidating. Therefore, the grade will be based more on the small group discussions than the larger discussions. However, you are encouraged to participate fully in both. We also ask for respectful discussions, especially since we’re asking you to share your experiences and disagreements. We believe thoughtful discussions will lead to better understandings of the texts and each other.

If you need to miss class, please email or message Melina on Canvas and be prepared to post your discussion responses for the week on the discussion page.

### Discussion, Online discussion posts and Replies

Each week, you will be reading at least 2 graphic novels and contributing to a Google doc. You are encouraged to share (i.e. lend) your graphic novels with each other, especially as we get closer to Spring break, when you will be choosing a genre or theme to work with. You’re also encouraged to revisit the libraries for more books.

As noted above, there will be guiding questions each week, but only 5 posts will be required (unless you need to be absent for an illness). For the 5 required posts, the initial post is due by Thursday and the responses to your peers are due by Sunday. The questions are open-ended but do require that you’ve read at least 2 graphic novels and the additional article, podcast, or video. You can find the rubric for the required posts on Canvas.

We want us all to think deeply about the themes in the novels and about your own writing, so we will be pushing you to make connections, give constructive feedback, and perhaps disagree because of your interpretations or experiences. A simple, “I agree! Your response is great” won’t be enough.

### Final Project

You will be creating a multimodal project to be submitted to [ImageText’s From the Classroom](#). These can include comics, zines, infographics, podcasts, videos, or articles. You should also be prepared to submit to the 2023 UF Conference on Comics and Graphic Novels ([information about the 2022 conference](#)), which is hosted at the end of May. Final projects can be done individually or in groups of 2-3 and they must have an external audience.

### Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

### Make-Up Policy

If you miss or do not complete an online discussion, Melina or Cody will send you a gentle reminder to make sure that you are doing ok. We prefer late engagement than no engagement at all. But timely engagement is the best! The final project has a stricter deadline because it will be our last assignment. But as with everything else, if you are struggling with that assignment, please talk to us.

### Grading Scale

Percentage	94 - 100	90 - 93	88 - 89	84 - 87	80 - 83	78 - 79	74 - 77	70 - 73	68 - 69	64 - 67	60 - 63	59 - 0
Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F

### Materials and Supplies Fees

None

### University Student Honor Code

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Conduct Code](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructors in this class.

### Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/> . Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/> . Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

### Course Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. [Click here to read the In-Class Recording policy](#).

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

## Semester Schedule

Wk	Date	Weekly readings and topics for discussion
1	1.9-1.15	<b>Reading:</b> Syllabus, intro article, borrow 2 graphic novels from instructors <b>Discussion 1:</b> Online introductions due Thurs, responses due Sun
2	1.16-1.22	<b>Mon - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: No class</b> Visit one of the <a href="#">Alachua County libraries</a> and borrow at least 8 books, from a variety of genres: superhero, fantasy, horror, memoir, historic fiction or nonfiction and for a range of audiences: children, young adult, and adult
3	1.23-1.29	<b>Genre 1:</b> YA or fantasy In-class discussion: Come prepared to choose genres for the next couple of weeks.
4	1.30-2.5	<b>Genre 2:</b> TBA
5	2.6-2.12	<b>Genre 3:</b> TBA
6	2.13-2.19	<b>Genre 4:</b> TBA <b>Discussion 2:</b> TBA
7	2.20-2.26	<b>Genre 5:</b> TBA
8	2.27-3.5	<b>Genre 6:</b> TBA
9	3.6-3.12	<b>Genre 7:</b> TBA <b>Discussion 3:</b> Choose a genre and/or theme for your final project proposal
10	3.13-3.19	Spring break: No class
11	3.20-3.26	focus on genre and themes by reading more titles
12	3.27-4.2	<b>Discussion 4:</b> Final project draft
13	3.4-4.9	focus on research and scholarly writing
14	4.10-4.16	focus on research and scholarly writing
15	4.17-4.23	focus on editing and polishing final projects <b>Discussion 5:</b> Final projects due (Sun, Apr 23)
16	4.24-4.30	<b>Mon:</b> Last day of class <b>Fri:</b> Responses for final projects due
F		Final exams in your other classes No final exam in this class!

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## Campus Resources

### Health and Wellness

**U Matter. We Care:** If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

**Counseling and Wellness Center:** The CWC provides short-term counseling, group, and couples' therapy as well as consultation, crisis services, outreach, referrals, self-care, and more. *Peabody Hall 4<sup>th</sup> floor or 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575*

**Student Health Care Center:** The SHCC provides a variety of health care services. *Infirmery Building, (352) 392 - 1161*

**UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:** For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608

**GatorWell Health Promotion Services:** For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

**University Police Department:**  
*352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies)*

### Campus Connections

**GatorConnect:** UF has over 900 student organizations that you can join

### Academic Resources

**E-learning technical support:** Browse through the frequently asked questions, call the number or email for E-learning (Canvas) tech support. *352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu)*

**Career Connections Center:** The C3 team helps students gain career experience, write resumes, find clothing for interviews and more. *Reitz Union First floor, 352- 392-1601*

**Library Support:** The UF libraries provide various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. They love questions!

**Academic Resources:** Academic Resources provides free tutoring services for courses within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. They also offer supplementary instruction and general study strategy workshops. *Online, 352-392-2010 or 352-392-6420*

**Writing Studio:** The Writing Studio provides free one-on-one consultations with specific papers or writing generally. *302 Tigert Hall, 352- 846-1138*

### Complaints

**Student Complaints On-Campus:**  
<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-%20code-student-conduct-code/>