History 4000 T14/7772 T10: Getting Graphic with the Past: Comics, Graphic Novels, and History

Winter 2021
Department of History, Faculty of Arts, University of Manitoba

Course Details
Thursdays, 2:30–5:15 PM
Classroom: Remote Learning (via UM Learn and Zoom)
Instructor: Dr. Sean Carleton (He/Him)
Email: sean.carleton@umanitoba.ca
Office Hours: Thursdays 11:30-12:30, or by appointment (via Zoom)

Course Introduction
This course will examine the emerging field of “graphic history” from theoretical, methodological, and historiographical perspectives. The course asks: What is the history of comics? How do “comics” work? What is the difference between comic books, graphic novels, and graphic histories? Can “comics” be helpful historical re(sources)? How can historians get graphic with the past? Students will engage with a variety of sources, including a range of graphic histories, to develop answers to these questions. Overall, the goal of the course is to better understand how comics can be a useful part of the historian’s toolkit today.
Delivery
History 4000/7772 will be taught remotely using a synchronous course design.

- Synchronous seminars on Thursday will take place weekly during scheduled class time. Seminars will **NOT** be recorded.
- HIST 4000 and HIST 7772 will meet together for the first hour and 30 minutes of class and then, after a short break, HIST 7772 students will meet for another 45 minutes.
- In addition to assignments, students will complete weekly questions that might require additional asynchronous work.
- All communication will be via U of M email and the UM Learn.

Required Course Materials
Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm et al., *This Place: 150 Years Retold: 150 Years Retold* (Highwater Press, 2019).

Additional required readings will be posted to UM Learn or will be available through the UofM library’s website. All readings must be completed before the seminar for which they are assigned.

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I. Evaluation Criteria and Assignments

Grading:

- 15% Seminar Presentation/Facilitation
- 25% Seminar Participation
- 15% Review 1
- 15% Review 2
- 30% Final Essay
Seminar Presentation/Facilitation – 15%
Students will be responsible for co-presenting and co-facilitating one of the weekly seminars. Students who are facilitating a seminar are required to submit discussion questions for the week they are leading a seminar. Seminar leaders must submit 6 discussion questions based on the week’s materials by 5pm on the Wednesday before seminar. Leading a discussion is a useful exercise in examining readings from a variety of perspectives. Seminar leaders are expected to have carefully examined the readings for that week and attend class with questions that stimulate discussion and facilitate a deeper understanding of the week’s material. Leaders can briefly introduce their topic but should not lecture the class. A good leader draws out the major issues and questions and facilitates discussion.

Seminar Participation – 25%
Evaluation is based on active contributions to virtual classroom activities, discussions, and assignments. Participation marks are based on two factors: demonstrating an understanding of all the assigned readings and participating consistently in class. A strong contribution to the class discussion involves demonstrating an understanding of core themes and issues in each of the weekly readings, and clearly articulating your thoughts to others.

Book Review (2) – 15% each
Students will write two essays (1500 words each for HIST 4000 and 2000 words each for HIST 7772) reviewing a selection from assigned class material. This is a review, not a research paper. Your review should address the key themes and arguments in the book. There is a particular emphasis on good and clear writing in this assignment. Examining an entire book in a short piece is a difficult task. But the review should not be a summary of the book. Your paper should be a critical review of the assigned text. A critical review is not necessarily a negative one – a critical review examines the content using evidence-based writing (using quotes/citations) and informed analysis.

Final Essay – 30%
Students will write a final essay (3000 words for HIST 4000 and 5000 words for HIST 7772) examining multiple course readings to answer a central question related to getting graphic with the past.

Grading Scale
A+ 88-100%
A 80-87%
B+ 75-79%
B 70-74%
C+ 65-69%
C 60-64%
D 50-59%
F 0-49%
II. Course Policies

* I encourage you to make an appointment with me to chat during the semester if you require any clarification about assignments or course content. A seminar course can sometimes feel intimidating to students, and remote learning during a global pandemic is additionally challenging. These are extraordinary times; this is emergency education. I welcome you to set up an appointment to introduce yourself, and if you are having any problems with an upcoming assignment, talk with me and we can work out a solution.

Respectful Learning Environment
Students are expected to actively contribute to discussions and to critically engage with course materials and colleagues’ ideas. Respectful conduct is required in all discussions. For more information, see the university’s Respectful Work and Learning Environment Policy:
http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/230.html

Copyright and Recording/Sharing of Course Material
All HIST 4000/7772 course material is copyrighted by the instructor, Sean Carleton, 2020. No audio or video recording of this material, lectures, seminars, or presentations is allowed in any format, openly or surreptitiously, in whole or in part without permission of the instructor. Course materials (both paper and digital) are for the participant’s private study and research and must not be shared or uploaded to any websites. Violation of these and other Academic Integrity principles, will lead to serious disciplinary action.

Essay and Assignment Citations and Format
All assignments should be double-spaced and in 12-point Font Size. Students should use humanities citation style with footnotes. Students can consult the Chicago Manual of Style Online: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html

Missed Tests and Assignments
Students will not be permitted to write make-up tests or make up missed assignments without medical or compassionate reasons.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students who are unable to meet a course requirement due to medical circumstances are currently not required to submit medical notes. However, students are required to contact their instructor or academic advisor by email to inform them of the missed work and to make arrangements for extensions, deferrals, or make-up assignments. Please follow these guidelines if you are unable to meet an academic requirement for this course:
- Contact your instructor for term work such as a class, quiz, midterm/test, assignment, lab;
- Contact an advisor in your faculty/college/school of registration for a missed final exam (scheduled in the final examination period);
• Inform your instructor/advisor as soon as possible; do not delay. Note for final exams, students must contact an advisor within 48 hours of the date of the final exam; and
• Email your instructor/advisor from a U of M email address, and include your full name, student number, course number, and academic work that was missed.

Statement on Academic Dishonesty
Students should acquaint themselves with the University’s policy on plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty in the General Academic Regulations in the online Academic Calendar and Catalogue and the Faculty of Arts regulation ([http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student_resources/student_responsibilities_integrity.html](http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student_resources/student_responsibilities_integrity.html)) which reads: The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for Disciplinary Action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty.

The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication. The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (DISC) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.

Voluntary Withdrawal Date
The Voluntary Withdrawal date for this class is 31 March. Withdrawal courses will be recorded on students’ official transcripts. For more information, refer to the Registrar’s Office web page: [http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/leave_return/695.html](http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/leave_return/695.html).

Grade Appeals
Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them.

Review of Final Grades
All final grades are subject to departmental review.

Student Resources
You have access to several important resources to help you navigate your classes and university life more generally. There are writing tutors available to help you with your essays through the Academic Learning Centre (ALC): [http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/](http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/). The ALC page also has resources to help you with study skills, organization, as well as assistance for students using English
as an Additional Language (EAL). Other issues, including accessibility services, workshops, and tips about academic integrity are addressed at the Student Advocacy Services webpage (http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/).

All of the above services can also be accessed under the heading of Student Resources on the Student Affairs website: http://umanitoba.ca/student/studentlife/index.html. History students can take advantage of the wide range of academic materials (including primary and secondary sources, as well as pages to help with writing and referencing) made available by the History subject librarian. They are available on the Libraries page at this link: http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/history. Students who need research assistance can also schedule an appointment with a librarian through the website.

**Student Counseling Centre**
Contact SCC if you are concerned about any aspect of your mental health, including anxiety, stress, or depression, or for help with relationships or other life concerns. SCC offers crisis services as well as counseling. http://umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/index.html

**Student Support Case Management**
Contact the Student Support Case Management team if you are concerned about yourself or another student and don’t know where to turn. SSCM helps connect students with on and off campus resources, provides safety planning, and offers other supports, including consultation, educational workshops, and referral to the STATIS threat assessment team. http://umanitoba.ca/student/case-manager/index.html

**Sexual Violence Resource Centre**
Contact the Sexual Violence Resource Centre (SVRC) if you have experienced sexual violence or are seeking information about how to help somebody else. SVRC provides inclusive, survivor-centred, trauma-informed services, such as consultation, referrals, safety planning, and a range of on-site supports, including counselling by Klinic.

Sexual Violence Resource Centre
Website: https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/sexual-violence-support-and-education
Address: 537 UMSU University Centre
Telephone: 204-474-6562 (Sexual Violence Intake and Triage Specialist)
Email: svrc@umanitoba.ca

**Student Accessibility Services**
The University of Manitoba is committed to providing an accessible academic community. Students Accessibility Services (SAS) offers academic accommodation supports and services such as note-taking, interpreting, assistive technology and exam accommodations. Students who have, or think they may have, a disability (e.g. mental illness, learning, medical, hearing, injury-related, visual) are invited to contact SAS to arrange a confidential consultation.

Student Accessibility Services
If you would like to meet to discuss accommodations recommended for you by SAS, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**University Health Service**
Contact UHS for any medical concerns, including mental health problems. UHS offers a full range of medical services to students, including psychiatric consultation. [http://umanitoba.ca/student/health/](http://umanitoba.ca/student/health/)

**Student Advocacy**
Contact Student Advocacy if you want to know more about your rights and responsibilities as a student, have questions about policies and procedures, and/or want support in dealing with academic or discipline concerns. [http://umanitoba.ca/student/advocacy](http://umanitoba.ca/student/advocacy)

**UM History Student Association (UMHiSA)**
UMHiSA is a history undergraduate student-run organization that seeks to establish a sense of community for students studying all facets of history, and provide support for them in their academic career. Students interested in fun times, spirited debate, new opportunities, a community of like-minded students, or all of the above, check out UMHiSA on our Instagram account [www.instagram.com/umhisa_undergrad/](http://www.instagram.com/umhisa_undergrad/) or emailing umhisau@gmail.com

### III. Weekly Topic Guide and List of Readings

**Week 1: Welcome (January 21)**
Online welcome via Zoom.

**Week 2: Getting Graphic with the Past (Jan 28)**

**Required Reading**
5. (For Graduate Students) Mark Leier and Sam Bradd, “Grad School – An Illustrated Primer”: [https://www.sfu.ca/history/graduate/future-students/mark-leier-grad-student-advice-comic.html](https://www.sfu.ca/history/graduate/future-students/mark-leier-grad-student-advice-comic.html)
Week 3: Comics History (Feb 4)
Required Reading

Week 4: Maus I (Feb 11)
Required Reading

Week 5: Reading Break I (No Class)

Week 6: Maus II (Feb 25)
Required Reading
3. Watch: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBudVI0Rri0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBudVI0Rri0)

Week 7: Louis Riel (March 3)
Required Reading
Week 8: Persepolis (March 10)
Required Reading

Week 9: Nat Turner
Required Reading

Week 10: (March 24) Reading Break II (No Class)

Week 11: The Great Hanoi Rat Hunt (March 31)

Week 12: 1919: A Graphic History of the Winnipeg General Strike (April 1)
Required Reading
2. Bloody Saturday.
3. Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YRF5pXVtbDc
4. Watch: https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1522116675548
5. Watch: https://gem.cbc.ca/media/absolutely-canadian/season-19/episode-29/38e815a-011aaaedfd1

Week 13: This Place (April 15)
Required Reading
1. Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm et al., *This Place: 150 Years Retold* (Highwater Press, 2019).