

Academic year 2023-24 (תשפ"ד)

Course title (English): Graphic Literature: Image, Text, and the In-between

Course title (Hebrew): ספרות גרפית: ציור, טקסט, ומה שביניהם

Course number: 132.1.3001

Course slot (semester/s, weekday/s, hours):

Spring Semester, Tuesdays, 12:00-14:00

Lecturer: Priel Cohanim

Lecturer's conference hour and contact details:

Thursdays, 12:00-14:00 or by appointment, priel27@gmail.com

Course description & objectives:

2 Credit Points, Elective Course

This course will introduce students to practices of close reading in graphic literature. Together we will learn about visual literary devices, such as panels, gutters, page-turn reveals and page composition, and consider the ways they produce meaning and inform our approaches to literary analysis. Through a reading of a selection of primary texts, we will consider structural and thematic questions that arise from the combination of text and imagery. We will also learn how to engage with secondary sources about graphic literature, how to develop a critical response to the theories explored in them, and how to apply them to primary texts.

Keywords: comics; manga; graphic novel; visual analysis; close reading; themes; structure.

Course requirements:

Attendance is mandatory (2 absences allowed, including the registration period).

Grade distribution:

- 10% - Active participation
- 10% - Short weekly reading journals (full credit if submitted)
- 5% - Response paper on a primary text (1 paragraph)
- 15% - Working with secondary sources (2 paragraphs)
- 60% - Final paper (5 pages)

Topics & bibliography:

Topics:

- Critical vocabulary and visual analysis
- Detective comics and games of reading
- Queering space and time: motion in graphic narratives
- Comics, manga, and the graphic novel
- Chimerism and questions of identity
- Greek literature and female justice
- Continuity and Elseworlds in superhero comics

Primary sources (this is a tentative list):

- Greg Rucka & J. G. Jones, *Wonder Woman: The Hiketeia*.
- Greg Rucka & J. H. Williams III, *Batwoman: Elegy*.
- Hiromu Arakawa, *Fullmetal Alchemist*, Volumes 1 & 2.
- Scott Snyder & Greg Capullo, *Batman, The New 52*, Volume 1: The Court of Owls.
- Scott Snyder & Greg Capullo, *Batman, The New 52*, Volume 2: The City of Owls.
- Tom Taylor & Yasmine Putri, *Dark Knights of Steel*.

Secondary sources (we will read excerpts from the following tentative list of texts):

- Curtis, Neal. "Wonder Woman's Symbolic Death: On Kinship and the Politics of Origins." *Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics*, vol. 8, no. 4, pp. 307-20.
- Labio, Catherine. "What's in a Name? The Academic Study of Comics and the 'Graphic Novel'." *Cinema Journal*, vol. 50, no. 3, 2011, pp. 123-6.
- Petrovic, Paul. "Queer Resistance, Gender Performance, and 'Coming Out' of the Panel Borders in Greg Rucka and J. H. Williams III's *Batwoman: Elegy*." *Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics*, vol. 2, no. 1, June 2011, pp. 67-76.
- Rabkin, Eric S. "Reading Time in Graphic Narrative." *Teaching the Graphic Novel*, edited by Stephen E. Tabachnick, The Modern Language Association of America, 2009, pp. 36-43.
- Smith, Greg M. "It Ain't Easy Studying Comics." *Cinema Journal*, vol. 50, no. 3, 2011, pp 110-2.