

**Course Title:** Graphic Literature

**Instructor:** Shuyu Lee

**Course TA:** Gwen Huang (blueclark0117@gmail.com)

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Classroom Language:** English

**Course Platform:** eLearn

**Course Description:**

In our world of increasingly multimedial cultural production, the graphic narrative, a mode of story-telling that combines images and texts, has obtained a new status as a serious genre in contemporary literature. This course aims to help students build their understanding of graphic story-telling and develop their ability to appreciate and analyze visual representations. We will begin by familiarizing ourselves with the language of comics and its close cousin, film, and then go on to explore graphic novel classics, with a focus on the ways in which graphic narratives help to express ideas about identity, memory, sexuality, spirituality, postmodernism, and the post-truth media landscape.

The course is conducted through a combination of lectures and group discussions.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Students will become improve their visual literacy.

Students will develop the ability to analyze and interpret contemporary multimedial literature.

Students will be able to learn to engage in scholarly discussions with their peers.

**Core Capabilities (大學部學生核心能力):**

1. The ability to communicate and express oneself in English (溝通表達與語文能力) 10%
2. The ability to analyze classic canons of literature (文學經典的分析與詮釋) 10%
3. The ability to look for problems and conduct research (問題發掘與研究能力) 20%
4. The ability to think creatively (創作與創新能力) 30%
5. The ability to examine issues through global and multicultural perspectives (全球化與國際視野及多元文化認知能力) 30%

## Required Readings

Author	Book Title	Publisher	ISBN
Marjane Satrapi	Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood (2004)	Pantheon	9780375714573
Paul Auster, Paul Karasik, David Mazzucchelli	City of Glass: The Graphic Novel (2004)	Picador	9780312423605
Craig Thompson	Blankets (2015)	Drawn & Quarterly	9781770462182
Alison Bechdel	Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic (2006)	Mariner	9780618871711
Nick Drmaso	Sabrina (2018)	Drawn & Quarterly	9781770463165

### NOTE:

**Graphic novels, like most contemporary books, are protected by copyright restrictions.**

**We cannot legally provide students with free copies of graphic novels. Therefore, students may need to purchase the above-listed books from book retailers.** For students who would rather not purchase the books, there are about three copies of each book available in the NTHU library.

Where to buy the books? You can find them on retail websites like Amazon. You can also order the books from NTHU-recommended distributors. Their contact information and estimated prices are available on the course's eLearn website.

### Assessment:

Attendance	10%
Active Participation (raising and answering questions, volunteering to read texts, and other behaviors that <b>prove</b> mental presence in class)	10%
In-class Discussions	20%
Group Project Presentation	20%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%

### Class Policies:

#### 1. Attendance

**1-A:** Regular attendance is expected. Exceptions:

- ♦ Sick Leave: documentary evidence, such as a doctor's note or a similar certificate from a healthcare professional, is required to prove the legitimacy of the leave request.
- ♦ Compassionate Leave (bereavement leave): documentary evidence is required to prove the legitimacy of the leave request.
- ♦ Public Duties Leave: documentary evidence is required to prove the legitimacy of the leave request.

♦ Personal Leave: documentary evidence is required to prove the legitimacy of the leave request.

**★NOTE: Emails containing no documentary evidence proving the legitimacy of the leave request have no function and therefore will be ignored.**

**1-B:** Attendance may be taken anytime during the class meeting. Students found absent at roll call will be marked absent for the day.

**1-C:** Three unexcused absences will incur a half letter grade reduction in semester grade. That means your semester grade will go, for example, from an original A to A-. Four unexcused absences will lead to a full letter grade reduction for the entire semester, which means your semester grade will turn, for example, from an original B into C.

## 2. Examinations

**2-A:** Failure to be present for an exam will result in receiving zero points for the exam.

**2-B:** Make-up exams are given only in case of absence due to force majeure events.

◆DEFINITION of a force majeure event: the event must be unforeseeable, external, and irresistible.

◆EXAMPLES of force majeure events: earthquake disasters, traffic accidents, emergency hospitalization, armed conflicts (war), and civil unrest (riots).

## 3. AI Policies

- Generative AI tools are prohibited in exams.

## 4. Other Policies

- Course materials (including the syllabus, handouts, and remote class images, audios, and videos) should not be sold to or shared with anyone outside of the class.
- How to do well in this course? Take an active role in class and have a positive attitude to the world.

## Schedule:

Week 1      Feb. 20    Introduction

Week 2	Feb. 27	Conceptual Tools 1
Week 3	Mar. 5	Conceptual Tools 2
Week 4	Mar. 12	Screening of <i>Persepolis</i> the film
Week 5	Mar. 19	<i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i>
Week 6	Mar. 26	<i>City of Glass</i>
Week 7	Apr. 2	<i>City of Glass</i>
Week 8	Apr. 9	Mid-term Exam
Week 9	Apr. 16	<i>Blankets</i>
Week 10	Apr. 23	<i>Blankets</i>
Week 11	Apr. 30	<i>Fun Home</i>
Week 12	May 7	<i>Fun Home</i>
Week 13	May 14	Group Project Presentation
Week 14	May 21	<i>Sabrina</i>
Week 15	May 28	<i>Sabrina</i>
Week 16	June 4	Final Exam