



**HIST 265.01B (82414)
WORLD HISTORY THROUGH GRAPHIC NOVELS
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2020**

Professor: Dr. Cynthia Ross



Class Time: Tuesday, Thursday 9:30am – 10:45am; Class held at this time online via Zoom and D2L
Office Location: Ferguson SS 104
Office Hours: Online via Zoom; email; specially arranged in person meetings may be possible
Instructor Email: Cynthia.Ross@tamuc.edu

Email is the best way to reach me outside of class. I typically respond to email within 24 hours during the week; expect a longer response-time during the weekend.

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Texts:

1. Jonathan Fetter-Vorm and Ari Kelman, *Battle Lines: A Graphic History of the Civil War*. ISBN: 978-0809094745
2. Keiji Nakazawa, *Barefoot Gen: A Cartoon Story of Hiroshima*. ISBN: 978-0867196023
3. Marjane Satrapi, *The Complete Persepolis*. ISBN: 978-0375714832
4. Art Spiegelman, *The Complete Maus*. ISBN: 978-0679406419
5. Michael G. Vann and Liz Clarke, *The Great Hanoi Rat Hunt: Empire, Disease, and Modernity in French Colonial Vietnam*. ISBN: 978-0190602697

Additional short articles, websites, and digital copies of comic books will be posted in D2L.

Course Description:

From the Undergraduate Catalog:

Encounters between human populations who perceive the differences that separate them to be greater than the similarities that unite them have punctuated world history. Such encounters have frequently led to war, imperialism and colonization, and less frequently to cultural imitation and syncretism. The modern world is the product of these encounters as much as, if not more than, it is the product of the development of distinct regional cultures, such as Western Civilization. This course explores the nature of such encounters and the consequences they had for cultural and political developments. The course satisfies a Literature, Philosophy and Culture requirement for the core curriculum and may be repeated when topics change.

Fall 2020:

The theme of HIST 265 this semester is World History Through Graphic Novels. In this course we will read five well known and award winning graphic novels to explore key themes in world history such as nationalism, industrialization, religion, war, militarism, colonialism, racism, and more in keeping with the course description.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics (issues, processes, trends, and systems).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

The readings, writing assignments, and additional course materials are listed for each week in D2L. Every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30am – 10:45am we will have lecture and discussion live on Zoom. This course is intended to be more lecture than discussion so your engagement and preparedness is critical. Every Monday I will send out the Zoom meeting link with a password. Lectures will be recorded if you are unable to attend at that time due to illness. All assignments must be submitted through D2L; no emailed assignments please. Download the Zoom app, sign up for a free account, and familiarize yourself with Zoom and D2L on the first day of the semester.

Visit <https://zoom.us/> to download the Zoom app and create a free account. For Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) including system requirements and how to use the app, visit <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206175806>. If you do not want your surrounding environment to show on your camera during class, feel free to use a virtual background of your choice as long as it is not too distracting to your classmates or professor. If you have problems with poor connectivity when using the video function, you may turn off your camera during class but please wait until after I finish taking roll.

Grading

Introductory Post	50
Papers (5 @ 100)	500
Graphic History Project	200
Engagement (attendance, discussion, timely submissions)	100
TOTAL:	850 points

Semester Grades: A, Excellent: 100-90%; B, Good: 89-80%; C, Average: 79-70%; D, Below Average: 69-60%; F, Fail: 59% and below.

The general grading criteria for all written assignments in this class is based on the following:

A = Mastery of content and reading material; factual accuracy; thoughtful interpretation or argument that synthesizes original thoughts and ideas with content; technically clean

B = Good-to-excellent command of the majority of content and reading material; competent factual accuracy; a generally solid historical argument backed with adequate evidence

C = Fair command of content material; reasonable factual accuracy; ability to articulate a specific thesis or argument even if it is not original or is poorly supported by the evidence

D = Poor command of content; factual errors; no real argument driving the essay

F = Even worse than above; completely off topic; no work submission

Introductory Post:

The first assignment of the semester is to post a brief introduction. In one or two paragraphs let me and your classmates know a little about yourself. Some possible ideas for information to include are: where you are from, your major, what you plan to do after college, anything you find interesting about history, and anything else you would like to share. In the past students have talked about being from other countries, travels, favorite foods, kids, books, music, pets, and hobbies. I will also post a few 'ice breaker' questions that usually generate some fun responses.

Papers:

You will write five 3 to 4 page papers on the assigned readings from the course. Each paper will explore the prominent themes in the graphic novel by responding to a prompt and including your own scholarly interpretation. I will post the prompt in D2L at least one week before the due date and there will be an opportunity to discuss it in class. Note that no instances of plagiarism will be tolerated at any time.

All written assignments are automatically filtered through Turnitin, a plagiarism detection application. Spelling and grammar must be accurate. Significant errors will result in grade reduction.

MLA parenthetical citation or Turabian full note/bibliography style must be used. Use what you are comfortable with and be consistent. No APA. Include a Works Cited or

Bibliography page (not included in the page count). Remember that all information taken from another source must be cited, whether or not it is quoted. Failure to cite constitutes plagiarism.

Exact quotations must be brief and few. Do not use exact quotes more than **three times** in this paper. Do not use any exact quotes longer than two lines.

The paper must use one-inch margins, a 12-point font (Arial or Times New Roman preferred), and be double-spaced.

The pages must be numbered, except the cover page (not included in page count).

Page numbers must be on the bottom of the page. No headers are permitted.

The paper must be submitted in a single .doc or .docx (MS Word) file through D2L.

Failure to submit in the proper file format may result in a failing grade.

The works cited / bibliography must consist only of the graphic novel and any peer-reviewed articles, scholarly books, and reputable websites needed to fully respond to the prompt. Depending on the prompt there may be a minimum of three sources required.

Late papers will be accepted only in very unusual cases, such as a serious, unexpected hospitalization that precludes internet access. Requests for extensions will be considered, if made by email prior to the due date.

A = Follows all instructions; follows the format; accurate; insightful; well-organized paragraphs; generally correct mechanics.

B = Follows all instructions; follows the format; few errors regarding accuracy; well-expressed; some organizational weaknesses; generally correct mechanics.

C = Follows all instructions; some mistakes in following format; few errors regarding accuracy; some organizational weaknesses; some errors in mechanics.

D = Does not follow all instructions; several errors in regard to format; or is weak regarding accuracy, organization, or mechanics.

F = Does not follow all instructions; several errors in regard to format; not required length; errors in accuracy; poor organization; several errors in mechanics; quotes or paraphrases

Graphic History Project:

Over the course of the semester, you will create your own graphic history project and present it to the class. This is a self-directed project but there will be several opportunities to discuss your progress and ideas in class or ask any questions. Using Google Slides you will create a graphic history on a topic of your choice, with professor approval. If you do not feel confident in your artistic ability, do not worry! You are free to use photos, maps, art, drawings, and other images with attribution. Using graphic novel elements (covered in class), you will create 10 – 20 slides that explain the topic (historical event, important person, etc.) and its significance in world history. You may want to refer to the themes of the course noted in the course description to help frame your ideas. At the end of the semester, you will provide a brief presentation of your project to the class using the share screen feature in Zoom.

MLA citation or Turabian full note/bibliography style must be used. Use what you are comfortable with and be consistent. No APA. Include a Works Cited or Bibliography slide (not included in the page count). Remember that all information taken from another source must be cited, whether or not it is quoted. Failure to cite constitutes plagiarism.

Exact quotations must be in dialogue or thought balloons, not in explanatory captions. Any captions should be in your own words with attribution if using someone else's ideas.

Text on the slides must be easy to read. Be sure to preview your project before submission to verify accuracy and readability.

Slides must be numbered, except the title slide (not included in slide count).

The sharable URL for the project must be submitted through D2L by the due date.

Failure to submit in the proper URL may result in a failing grade.

The works cited / bibliography slide must consist only of peer-reviewed articles, scholarly books, reputable websites, and images needed to complete the project. No Wikipedia, general encyclopedias, study guides, or K-12 learning sites. No graphic novels.

Late projects will be accepted only in very unusual cases, such as a serious, unexpected hospitalization that precludes internet access. Requests for extensions will be considered, if made by email prior to the due date. Late submissions cannot be guaranteed a class presentation time resulting in possible point reductions.

A = Follows all instructions; follows the format; accurate; insightful; well-organized; excellent presentation; generally correct mechanics.

B = Follows all instructions; follows the format; few errors regarding accuracy; well-expressed; some organizational weaknesses; good presentation; generally correct mechanics.

C = Follows all instructions; some mistakes in following format; few errors regarding accuracy; some organizational weaknesses; adequate presentation; some errors in mechanics.

D = Does not follow all instructions; several errors in regard to format; or is weak regarding accuracy, organization, presentation, or mechanics.

F = Does not follow all instructions; several errors in regard to format; not required length; errors in accuracy; poor organization; no presentation; several errors in mechanics, quotes, or paraphrases

Engagement:

Regular engagement and keeping up with the material is critical in this course. This course balances lecture and discussion. If you are not prepared, discussion will reflect that. Engagement will be measured based on students attending live lectures, contributing to discussion, consistently logging into the course, spending time working in the course, and completing assignments on time. If students have a problem with engagement due to illness, work, family, or life contact the instructor right away. Flexibility is possible if I know what is going on. You should log in to an online course at least as often as you would attend a face-to-face class and complete the work assigned. For a three-credit course, expect to spend nine hours on class work per week outside of regular class attendance to stay on top of the workload. University classes can be difficult but not impossible with strict time management.

D2L TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
 - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
 - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - Speakers or headphones.
 - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.
Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.
Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - [Adobe Reader](https://get.adobe.com/reader/) <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
 - [Adobe Flash Player](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) (version 17 or later) <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
 - [Adobe Shockwave Player](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/) <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/>
 - [Apple Quick Time](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/) <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at Gee Library, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Brightspace Support

Need Help?

Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778



or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “[click here](#)” to submit an issue via email.

System Maintenance

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Students are encouraged to email the professor with questions, concerns, or comments. Students must provide a valid return email address for replies. Unless otherwise announced, students can expect replies within 24 hours during the week. Response times may be longer on the weekends.

When sending an email always do the following:

1) Use a subject line. This tells me what the topic is and prevents your message from ending up in my junk mail.

2) Include your class and section (or class time). I need to know exactly which of my courses you are in.

3) End the email with your name, that is “sign” your message. I also need to know who you are.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

All writing assignments should be in standard format – Times New Roman or Arial, 12-point font, one-inch margins, double-spaced.

Paragraphs should have at least five sentences.

Citation style should be MLA, parenthetical with author and page number, for quotations and paraphrasing. It should look like this:

Jurgis is injured on the job and the doctor orders him to stay in bed for two months or risk lameness in his leg for life (Sinclair, 121). With this event and its economic consequences, the author highlights how catastrophic a workplace injury could be for workers in the nineteenth century with no financial safety net.

History majors are required to use Turabian full-note / bibliography citation style.

Late Assignments:

Any work submitted past the due date may receive up to one letter grade reduction per calendar day without prior written approval by the instructor.

Extra Credit:

There is no extra credit in this course. Students are encouraged to talk to the instructor early and often if they are having problems in the course.

Student Conduct:

All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See current Student Guidebook)

Plagiarism:

In all courses, I expect that all work that you do and turn in is your own. It is the policy of the University, the History Department, and myself that no form of plagiarism, cheating, collusion, or any other form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as deliberately taking the words or ideas of someone else and passing them off as your own. Cheating is obtaining unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Collusion is the selling of academic products with the intention that they be submitted to satisfy an academic requirement. Students are expected to uphold and support the highest academic standards at all times.

It is fine to use other people's words and ideas as long as they receive credit in citations. If you are unsure about the precise definition of plagiarism and/or think you may have committed this form of academic dishonesty, see the instructor or visit the Online Writing Lab before you turn in the assignment.

If a student commits academic dishonesty on any part of an assignment, the assignment will receive a zero with no possibility for make-up. Additionally, any incidents of academic dishonesty may be reported to the Office of the Provost by the Professor according to university policy 13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events may make it necessary for the professor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced as soon as possible.

Writing Lab:

The [TAMU-Commerce Online Writing Lab](#) is a valuable service free to any student. They can help you get started on a paper, help with drafts, and answer specific questions about citation style, grammar, and spelling. While they will not write the paper for you, they are there to give feedback and guidance.

Students with Disabilities Information:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Student Disability Resources & Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Nondiscrimination Notice:

A&M–Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement:

Campus Concealed Carry - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

University Pandemic Response

A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct. Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

WEEK 1: Course Introduction; How to read comics – style, form, and content

Live Meeting via Zoom Aug. 25 and Aug. 27

Reading: Available in D2L

All assignments due Friday at 11:59pm

DUE: Introductory Post

WEEK 2: Political Satire and Editorial Cartoons; The Golden Age of Comics and the Wartime Origins of the Superhero

Live Meeting via Zoom Sept. 1 and Sept. 3

Reading: Available in D2L

All assignments due Friday at 11:59pm

DUE: None

WEEK 3: The Origin and Evolution of Graphic Novels; History of Manga

Live Meeting via Zoom Sept. 8 and Sept. 10

Reading: Available in D2L

All assignments due Friday at 11:59pm

DUE: Graphic History Project Topic, for approval

WEEK 4: Our story opens in Japan...

Live Meeting via Zoom Sept. 15 and Sept. 17

Reading: *Barefoot Gen*

Continue working on Graphic History Project

All assignments due Friday at 11:59pm

DUE: None

WEEK 5: *Barefoot Gen* Discussion

Live Meeting via Zoom Sept. 22 and Sept. 24

Reading: *Barefoot Gen*

All assignments due Friday at 11:59pm

DUE: None

WEEK 6: Meanwhile, in Poland...

Live Meeting via Zoom Sept. 29 and Oct. 1

Reading: *The Complete Maus*

Continue working on Graphic History Project

All assignments due Friday at 11:59pm

DUE: *Barefoot Gen* Paper

WEEK 7: The Graphic Memoir and *Maus* Discussion

Live Meeting via Zoom Oct. 6 and Oct. 8

Reading: *The Complete Maus*

All assignments due Friday at 11:59pm

DUE: None

WEEK 8: Let us return to events unfolding earlier in the United States...

Live Meeting via Zoom on Oct. 13 and Oct. 15

Reading: *Battle Lines*

Continue working on Graphic History Project

All assignments due Friday at 11:59pm

DUE: *The Complete Maus* Paper

WEEK 9: Graphic History and *Battle Lines* Discussion

Live Meeting via Zoom Oct. 20 and Oct. 22

Reading: *Battle Lines*

All assignments due Friday at 11:59pm

DUE: None

WEEK 10: The Modern Age of Comics and the Rise of the Anti-Hero

Live Meeting via Zoom Oct. 27 and 29

Reading: Available in D2L

Continue working on Graphic History Project

All assignments due Friday at 11:59pm

DUE: *Battle Lines* Paper

WEEK 11: Much later, in Iran...

No Class on Tuesday, Nov. 3 – Election Day, Go Vote

Live Meeting via Zoom Nov. 5

Reading: *The Complete Persepolis*

Continue working on Graphic History Project

All assignments due Friday at 11:59pm

DUE: Working Bibliography for Graphic History Project (minimum 10 sources; image and/or text), for approval

WEEK 12: *Persepolis* Discussion

Live Meeting via Zoom Nov. 10 and Nov. 12

Reading: *The Complete Persepolis*

All assignments due Friday at 11:59pm

DUE: None

WEEK 13: Now, something was afoot in French Indochina...

Live Meeting via Zoom Nov. 17 and Nov. 19

Reading: *The Great Hanoi Rat Hunt*

Continue working on Graphic History Project

All assignments due Friday at 11:59pm

DUE: *Persepolis* Paper

WEEK 14: *The Great Hanoi Rat Hunt* Discussion

Live Meeting via Zoom Nov. 24

Thanksgiving Break Nov. 25 – Nov. 27

Reading: *The Great Hanoi Rat Hunt*

All assignments due Friday at 11:59pm

DUE: None

WEEK 15: Indigenous Comics and the Global South; Graphic History Presentations

Live Meeting via Zoom Dec. 1 and Dec. 3

Reading: Available in D2L

All assignments due Friday at 11:59pm

DUE: *The Great Hanoi Rat Hunt Paper*

Graphic History Project (students presenting this week)

FINALS WEEK: Graphic History Presentations

Live Meeting via Zoom to be announced when the Final Exam Schedule is released by the Registrar.

All students are required to attend even if they presented last week.

All Assignments due on Final Exam day at 11:59pm.

DUE: Graphic History Project (all remaining students)