English 6393: Research Contract

Student Name: Kathleen Blood-Almeida

CID: 80163616

Instructor: Laurence Musgrove

Description: English 6393: Special Topics – Reading the Graphic Novel. A special topics course focusing on the study of comics with extended readings in comics theory and graphic fiction and non-fiction, as well as research into teaching comics.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate understanding of the conventions of reading and analyzing comics and graphic narratives.
- Students will demonstrate effective research and annotation abilities.
- Students will demonstrate clear and concise writing.
- Students will demonstrate visual thinking and analysis.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of teaching comics.

Course Texts

3. 3. Watchmen, Alan Moore, DC Comics, 1995 978-1401245252
4. Fun Home, Alison Bechdel, Mariner, 2006 978-0618871711
5. The Adventures of Jimmy Corrigan: The Smartest Kid on Earth, Chris Ware, Pantheon, 2003 978-0375714542

Assignments

- 2 handmade thinking responses per class period
- Midterm comic of at least 2 pages and 12 panels demonstrating life and influence of important figure or figures in history of comics and graphic novels.
- Midterm exam – an in-class, open-book/internet exam in which students demonstrate their abilities to analyze a short comic narrative and respond to questions about McCloud’s Understanding Comics and Moore and Gibbon’s Watchmen.
- Final exam – an in-class, open-book/internet exam in which students demonstrate their abilities to analyze a short comic narrative and respond to questions about McCloud’s Understanding Comics, Bechdel’s Fun Home, and Ware’s The Adventures of Jimmy Corrigan.
- Final comic of at least 2 pages and 12 panels that portrays a thematically or emotionally unified personal experience with annotations describing the comic vocabulary utilized throughout.
- Research project of 2000 words plus work cited page of at least 5 sources on best practices in teaching comics in college.

---------------------------------------- Student Name
---------------------------------------- Instructor Name
---------------------------------------- Graduate Program Advisor
---------------------------------------- Department Chair
Minimum Requirements for Written and Handmade Responses

For each reading assignment, you will compose handmade response.

In your handmade response to the assigned reading, draw a picture in landscape format on an 8.5 X 11 sheet of plain white paper that creatively and originally represents the author’s argument, narrative, or compelling idea.

This picture should be a combination of images, words, and colors in the white space of the page. The drawing must be an original drawing, follow one or more of the twenty-one visual formats show below, and include no clip art.

Whichever handmade response format you select, your drawing should be presented in landscape format, be effectively developed, and include at least three colors (black may be one of those colors).

On the reverse of the reading visual in the top left corner, write your name, the date, the name of the reading assignment, and the name of visual format(s) you are using.

Also on this side, include at least one brief quote from the assigned text (along with the parenthetical page reference) that corresponds to your drawing.

To fulfill the minimum requirements of handmade responses, they
1. Must be free from virtually all errors in sentences and words.
2. Demonstrated honest effort, clear engagement, and fresh thinking on the assigned text.
3. Follow the format requirements as described above.
21 Visual Formats for Handmade Thinking

Portrait, Map

Comic, Comparison/Contrast, Venn Diagram, Seesaw, Scale

Tree, Web, Organizational Chart, Genealogical Chart

Bar Graph, Pie Chart, Multivariable Graph

Timeline, Before and After, Equation, Process, Freytag Plot, XY +- Plotline, Layers
Your original drawing on one side of the page.

Name
Date
Title of Assignment
Visual Format Used

“Brief quote from poem or story that corresponds to the drawing” (#).
Your header and quotation on the other side of the page.
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UC = Understanding Comics  
M = Maus I  
W = Watchmen  
F = Fun Home  
J = Jimmy Corrigan  
HR = Handmade Response