

Course Syllabus

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Tim Kenyon
E-mail: timothykenyon@delta.edu
Office hours and conferencing: by appointment only

REQUIRED TEXTS

A.D.: New Orleans After the Deluge, Josh Neufeld
American Born Chinese, Gene Luen Yang
Watchmen, Alan Moore & Dave Gibbons
Researching and Writing: A Portable Guide (with 2010 APA Updates), Marcia Muth

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Comics can be defined as images and words arranged sequentially for the purpose of telling a story. By this definition, comics have been around quite literally since the dawn of humankind. Early humans used cave drawings to record their history, to educate their young, and to tell stories. These drawings share many of the same functions as today's comics and graphic novels. While popular culture has morphed the concept of the "comic" into an art form that must be either humorous, pithy, childish, or replete with superheroes, true comics are anything but. This class will introduce you to and reinforce the idea that comics, particularly those in the graphic novel form, can enlighten, inspire, educate, and break the boundaries and stereotypes that hold our culture from ultimately understanding and coming to terms with the world in which we live. gerund.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You will be graded on your ability to satisfactorily complete:

Two Formal Essays (200 points each)	400 points
Six Discussion Forums (20 points each)	120 points
One quiz	<u>30 points</u>
Total possible points:	550 points

Essays:

Each essay assignment will challenge you to engage with one of the topics raised by the assigned texts. The assignments will be discussed in more detail when the assignment sheets become available in the appropriate packets. Expect to write a total of 8 to 10 pages for the formal essays over the course of the semester. You may also be expected to conduct outside research and incorporate that information into your essays.

Discussion Forums:

Discussion forums will be completed in two parts: **journal response** and **sharing circle**. Each part will be due at different points throughout the week. Be sure to check the course calendar and adhere to the due dates. tone.

Journal Response: The first part involves a detailed journal response to a prompt posted by the instructor. Carefully consider the prompt, then respond to it in a detailed and thoughtful response of **no less than 300 words**. You are expected to utilize the novels and textbook while responding, citing from any or all the books where necessary to help support your point. A significant portion of the grade for the discussion forums will be derived from the completeness and thoughtfulness of these journal responses. Before beginning your journal response, be clear of your intention. Don't make your response a collection of disconnected ramblings. Although this isn't a formal essay, your response should still have a clear point which is supported with evidence from the text. Each person will post his or her journal response to the appropriate week's discussion forum by the assigned day and time as noted in the course calendar.

Sharing Circle: The second part of the discussion forum will consist of a sharing circle. This portion will require you to engage in an ongoing discussion with your peers. Once the journal posting day/time has passed, each member of the class is required to **REPLY to at least three (3)** of your peer's journal responses. All replies must be thoughtful and kind. You do not necessarily need to agree with the person's comments. Rather, you can offer support or an alternative point of view. Avoid simple "I agree with everything you wrote!" type of replies as these are not very thoughtful or detailed. Consider how you might react, comment, respond, and/or rebut to your peers' journal responses. Remain active in the developing discussions. Don't complete all of them at once. Return to the forum several times over the course of the packet. Read other journal responses and enter as many discussions as you wish. Continue to share with each other until the due date for that particular packet. The remainder of the grade for the discussion forums will be based on participation and thoughtfulness of the discussions.

I will be monitoring the online discussions to ensure complete and appropriate participation by all group members. I will not be taking part in any discussions unless I deem it necessary. syntax. I ask you all to be respectful of each other's opinions and beliefs while conducting these discussions.

Quiz:

You will be required to complete a quiz in the first packet which will encourage you to read this syllabus carefully as well as expose you to some important writing and researching terms. If you read this document carefully, you will increase your chances of scoring perfectly on the quiz.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Desire2Learn: Since this is an online course it is your responsibility to ensure you have a reliable Internet connection and computer. The Delta campus is well equipped, as are the local libraries, however, the nature of this class requires that you have daily access to your computer. Also, a working knowledge of the D2L online system is required. A tutorial will be available at the beginning of the semester. If you have any questions about D2L, contact the e-Learning office

immediately at (989) 686-9088 or elarning@delta.edu.

Packets and Tasklists: Each week's work is broken down into virtual "packets" which need to be completed by the assigned due dates. Each packet has a tasklist attached to it. A document with all of the packet tasklists can be found in the Content section of D2L. The assignments in each tasklist will vary from week to week. conjunction. **DO NOT** wait until the day before a packet is due to begin working on it. The packets are designed to provide enough work for an entire week. They will take some time and effort to complete. Some of this work will include collaboration with other class members, therefore it is your responsibility to keep abreast of the requirements for the week.

Reading Assignments: All required reading assignments from the texts are listed in the week's tasklist. I highly suggest that you do not wait until the next packet is available before moving on with your reading in the novels. Having the reading done ahead of time will make completing the packet much easier, especially if you have a set schedule during the week. Never wait until the last minute to complete your reading assignments.

Peer Workshop: Prior to submitting each essay for a grade you will be provided with an opportunity to share your draft with your peers for review and comments. A workshop for each of the two essays will be optional and I will leave it up to you to make contact with peers and exchange papers. Extra credit will be offered to those who take part in the peer workshop. See the detailed description in the week's packet for more information and instructions.

GRADING SYSTEM

Final grades will be based on total points earned/possible points x 100

Percentage	Grade
92 – 100%	A
90 – 91%	A-
88 – 89%	B+
82 – 87%	B
80 – 81%	B-
78 – 79%	C+
72 – 77%	C
70 – 71%	C-
60 – 69%	D
0 – 59%	F

OTHER MATTERS

Late work:

Late essay	Not accepted
Late packets	Not accepted
Late quiz	Not accepted

Turning in Essays: Essays will be submitted electronically via Educator under "Assessments". You will **NOT** e-mail your essay to me as an attachment. They will not be accepted in this manner. Your

essays are required to be typed in a word processing program and saved as MS Word (doc or docx), rich text format (RTF), or if you are a Mac user, Pages will be acceptable. **These are the only formats I can accept.** If you use MS Works or WordPerfect, please save your file as RTF (Rich Text Format) before submitting.

Essay Formatting: We will be using APA style of formatting in this class. A sample essay formatted in APA is available in the Muth text on pages 203-212. Be sure to include an MLA Works Cited page when you are citing from the text. Any deviation from this format will result in a loss of points. Proper grammar and spelling are a given, therefore you must proofread everything you turn in. When I read your essays, I will stop when I've reached five typos or obvious grammatical errors and the essay will be graded to that point. Errors such as these will be noted in highlight in my comments. Also, your essays cannot be shorter than the minimum page requirement. If the assignment calls for three pages minimum, I expect three full pages. Partial or incomplete essays will be returned ungraded.

Contacting Me (In order of preference): **E-mail:** I will be checking this at least once a day during the week. I do not respond to e-mail on the weekend. Any issues that arise on the weekend will be handled on Monday morning. My response time in almost all cases be no more than 24 hours. Plan ahead, get your work done early and ask questions early. Do not wait until the last minute and expect an immediate reply from me. **F2F/Online office hours:** If you need to meet face to face or online, please contact me ahead of time to schedule a time and place to meet.

Online Classroom Behavior: Complete respect for me, your classmates, and everyone's opinions is mandatory. If anyone is rude, insulting, discourteous, impolite, or otherwise disruptive toward another student or the class as a whole while utilizing the discussion board or any other portion of this online class, I will be required to take appropriate steps to ensure it doesn't continue. If I am not aware that such behavior is taking place, please make me aware of it immediately. Any such behavior will likely affect your grade and could cause you to fail the course entirely.

Academic Honesty: Taking responsibility for one's own learning means doing one's own work and giving others credit for their contributions. Students are expected to be rigorously honest in this class. Violations of academic integrity are taken very seriously and may result in a range of responses including loss of points, failure from the class, or academic suspension. Plagiarism is a deliberate violation of this academic honesty policy. The definition of plagiarism is expressed as, but not limited to, turning in another's work as one's own, failing to give proper credit or citation for the use of another's work, or turning in work previously submitted for another class. For more details about this policy, consult the college's student handbook.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA Statement): Delta College is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with documented physical or learning disabilities. If you have a disability and will be requiring assistance, please contact me and Disability Support Services, located in the Counseling and Multicultural Office in D-102, as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

Final Note: This syllabus represents a written contract between the instructor and all students in the class. Every student is expected and required to read and understand the content of this syllabus. Any portion of this syllabus is subject to alteration or deletion by the instructor without prior notice.