

**Time:** T E1-E3 → Tuesdays 7:20-10:10pm

**Place:** TUR 4112

**Instructor Name:** Dr. Margaret Galvan

**Email:** [margaretgalvan@ufl.edu](mailto:margaretgalvan@ufl.edu)

**Office:** TUR 4348

**Office Hours:** T/Th, 4-5pm, & by appt.

**Canvas Website:** <http://clearning.ufl.edu/>

**Course Website:**

<https://seeingdifferently2019.wordpress.com>

### Course Description:

Comics studies has emerged as a scholarly field of inquiry over the past 25+ years, but many foundational thinkers considered only the form of the comic in their scholarship. Recent scholarship has both extended and challenged this formalist approach by engaging with how race, class, ideology, gender, sexuality, etc. shape comics. Indeed, comics has become a flashpoint for identity-focused theoretical investigations. In this class, we will ask how these theories shift our understanding of comics and how comics themselves represent issues of identity.

We will start by reading three recent volumes—*How to Read Nancy* (2017), *Why Comics?* (2017), and *Queer about Comics* (2018)—that present different methods to understanding the form, asking how these approaches are both specific to comics and how they apply to and connect with other forms and fields. Through examining a range of contemporary comics that theorize identity in their own right, this course will train students in interdisciplinary approaches, inflected by queer theory, feminisms, affect and trauma theory, critical race and disability studies. This course should be of interest to students who study identity in visual and popular cultures. Scaffolded professionalization activities will accompany the completion of a seminar paper.

### Books to Purchase:

- Hillary Chute, *Why Comics?: From Underground to Everywhere* (2017), Harper, ISBN: 0062476807
- Ta-Nehisi Coates & Brian Stelfreeze, *Black Panther, Vol. 1: A Nation Under Our Feet* (trade edition 2016), Marvel, ISBN: 1302900536
- Leela Corman, *Unterzakhn* (2012), Pantheon, ISBN: 0805242597
- Kelly Sue DeConnick & Valentine De Landro, *Bitch Planet, Vol. 1: Extraordinary Machine* (trade edition 2015), Image Comics, ISBN: 9781632153661
- Jaime Hernandez, *Maggie the Mechanic: A Love and Rockets Book* (6th edition 2017), Fantagraphics, ISBN: 1560977841
- Paul Karasik & Mark Newgarden, *How to Read Nancy: The Elements of Comics in Three Easy Panels* (2017), Fantagraphics, ISBN: 1606993615
- Erika Lopez, *Flaming Iguanas* (1998), Simon & Schuster, ISBN: 068485368X
- MariNaomi, *Turning Japanese* (2016), 2dcloud, ISBN: 1937541169
- L. Nichols, *Flocks* (collected edition 2018), Secret Acres, ISBN: 099919352X
- Ben Passmore, *Your Black Friend and Other Strangers* (2018), Silver Sprocket, ISBN: 1945509201
- Darieck Scott & Ramzi Fawaz, eds., “Queer about Comics,” a special issue of *American Literature* 90.2 (2018), Duke University Press, ISBN: 9781478003519
- Art Spiegelman, *Maus* (collected edition 2003), Penguin Books, ISBN: 0141014083
- Georgia Webber, *Dumb: Living Without a Voice* (collected edition 2018), Fantagraphics, ISBN: 1683961161
- David Wojnarowicz, James Romberger, & Marguerite Van Cook, *7 Miles a Second* (new edition 2018), Ground Zero Books, <https://groundzerobooks.com/products/7-miles-a-second>

**Assignments & Grading:**

- **Digital Posts + Discussion Questions (20%, due Weeks 4-15):** You will publish two digital posts on the course website throughout the semester. In these posts, you will locate a relevant peer-reviewed scholarly essay and summarize it, connecting its claims to the assigned comic. You will create three discussion questions for related passages in the main comic. To receive credit, you must be present to help lead discussion on the days you select. You'll announce your article selection at the class before you present, make a PDF of the article available to the class, and publish your post on the course website at least one day in advance.
- **Questions for Guest Visits (10%, due Week 3, 11, 13):** We will welcome three early career comics scholars—Dr. Colin Beineke, Dr. Nicholas E. Miller, & Dr. Leah Misemer—into our classroom over the course of the semester. They will reflect on how they've established themselves in the field. We will read a couple pieces of their scholarship in order to get a sense of the trajectory of their thought. Students will choose one of these three scholars to focus on and draft discussion questions to pose during their visit.
- **State of the Field Paper (20%, due Week 10):** You will write a 5-7 page review of an entire issue of a journal focused on comics—be it a comics journal or non-comics journal special issue—published in the last ten years. You can find a number of relevant journals and issues here (<http://www.comicsresearch.org/academic.html>), though special issues in the last four years are not yet listed here, including ones in *Journal of Lesbian Studies* and *Feminist Media Histories*. The Bonn Online Bibliography of Comics Research (<http://www.comicforschung.uni-bonn.de/>) and the ICAF Comics Scholarship Bibliography (<http://www.internationalcomicartsforum.org/comics-studies-bibliography.html>) may also prove useful.
- **Seminar Paper (50%, due Week 16):** You will write a 15-20 page seminar paper on one of the assigned comics. You may design an alternate, equivalent assignment in consultation with me. All students will schedule a meeting with me to discuss your topic before spring break.

**COURSE SCHEDULE****WEEK 1****Tuesday, January 8**

- Hillary Chute, *Why Comics?* (2017)
- Hillary Chute, "Feminist Graphic Art," *Feminist Studies* 44.1 (2018)

**WEEK 2****Tuesday, January 15**

- Paul Karasik & Mark Newgarden, *How to Read Nancy* (2017)
- Mark Newgarden & Paul Karasik, "How to Read *Nancy*" (1988)
- Todd VanDerWerff, "*Nancy*, a 1930s comic strip, was the funniest thing..." on *Vox* (2018), <https://www.vox.com/culture/2018/12/26/18151274/nancy-olivia-jaimes-best-comic-2018>

**WEEK 3****Tuesday, January 22**

- Darieck Scott & Ramzi Fawaz, eds., "Queer about Comics," a special issue of *American Literature* 90.2 (2018)
- **Special Guest: Leah Misemer (Georgia Tech)**
- Leah Misemer, "Hands across the Ocean: A 1970s Network of French and American Women Cartoonists," *Comics Studies Here and Now* (2018)
- Leah Misemer, "Correspondence Zone," *Sequentials* 1.2 (2018), <https://www.sequentialsjournal.net/issues/issue2/misemer.html>
- Leah Misemer, "Subverting Stigma: Community Building in Serial Comics." *Pathographics: Narrative, Aesthetics, Contention, Community*, Susan Merrill Squier and Irmela Kreuger-Füerhoff, eds. (Penn State University Press, forthcoming)
- **Questions for Dr. Misemer: Fi, Mandy, Ayanni**

**WEEK 4****Tuesday, January 29**

- Art Spiegelman, *Maus* (2003)
- **Digital Post + Discussion Qs: Laken**

**WEEK 5****Tuesday, February 5**

- Jaime Hernandez, *Maggie the Mechanic* (2017)
- **Digital Post + Discussion Qs: Fi**

**WEEK 6****Tuesday, February 12**

- David Wojnarowicz, James Romberger, & Marguerite Van Cook, *7 Miles a Second* (2018)
- **Digital Post + Discussion Qs: e, Mandy**

**WEEK 7****Tuesday, February 19**

- Erika Lopez, *Flaming Iguanas* (1998)
- **Digital Post + Discussion Qs: Bri**

**WEEK 8****Tuesday, February 26**

- Leela Corman, *Unterzakhn* (2012)
- **Digital Post + Discussion Qs: Mandy**

**WEEK 9****Tuesday, March 5**

- **Spring break**

**WEEK 10**

Tuesday, March 12

- **State of the Field Paper due**
- Kelly Sue DeConnick & Valentine De Landro, *Bitch Planet, Vol. 1* (2015)
- **Digital Post + Discussion Qs: Bri, Cara**

**WEEK 11**

Tuesday, March 19

- MariNaomi, *Turning Japanese* (2016)
- **Special Guest: Colin Beineke (Savannah College of Art and Design)**
- Colin Beineke, “‘Her Gardiner’: Alan Moore's Swamp Thing as the Green Man,” *ImageText* 5.4 (Spring 2011), [http://www.english.ufl.edu/imagetext/archives/v5\\_4/beineke/](http://www.english.ufl.edu/imagetext/archives/v5_4/beineke/)
- Colin Beineke, “On Comicity,” *iNKS* 1.2 (Summer 2017)
- **Digital Post + Discussion Qs: Brandon**
- **Questions for Dr. Beineke: Laken, Bri, Cara**

**WEEK 12**

Tuesday, March 26

- Ta-Nehisi Coates & Brian Stelfreeze, *Black Panther, Vol. 1* (2016)
- **Digital Post + Discussion Qs: Ayanni, Brandon**

**WEEK 13**

Tuesday, April 2

- Georgia Webber, *Dumb: Living Without a Voice* (2018)
- **Special Guest: Nicholas E. Miller (Valdosta State University)**
- Nicholas E. Miller, “Asexuality and Its Discontents: Making the ‘Invisible Orientation’ Visible in Comics,” *iNKS* 1.3 (Fall 2017)
- Nicholas E. Miller, “‘Now That It’s Just Us Girls’: Transmedial Feminisms from *Archie* to *Riverdale*,” *Feminist Media Histories* 4.3 (Summer 2018)
- **Digital Post + Discussion Qs: Cara, Laken**
- **Questions for Dr. Miller: e, Brandon**

**WEEK 14**

Tuesday, April 9

- L. Nichols, *Flocks* (2018)
- **Digital Post + Discussion Qs: e, Fi**

**WEEK 15**

Tuesday, April 16

- Ben Passmore, *Your Black Friend and Other Strangers* (2018)
- **Digital Post + Discussion Qs: Ayanni**

**WEEK 16**

Tuesday, April 23

- **Seminar Paper due**