



ST. JEROME'S
UNIVERSITY

St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo

Arts First

ARTS 140 SEM 002

Information and Analysis:

Goddesses and Superheroines: Comics as Cultural Critic

Fall 2018

Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00-2:20pm, SJ2 2001

Instructor: Dr. Chris Klassen

Office: SH 2112

Office Hours: MW 12:00-12:50pm or by appointment

Email: chris.klassen@uwaterloo.ca

Course Description

This course introduces students to diverse ways of finding, examining, and using data and information in the social sciences and humanities. In a small seminar setting, students will explore a variety of topics based on instructor expertise in order to understand quantitative and qualitative methods of data gathering and build competencies in conceptualizing, contextualizing, and comprehending methods of information analysis. Students will be expected to investigate, use, and assess the presentation of information in their own work and the work of others so that they can better understand the range of social, ethical, and political challenges of our world.

CONTENT THEME:

Scholars are increasingly recognizing the way comic authors and artists have used the medium to comment on cultural and social issues in complex ways. This course will examine the way comics can be sites of negotiating cultural meaning.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Access information and practice navigating library resources, including indexes and databases.
2. Recognize, define, and reflect on the meaning of quantitative and qualitative data.
3. Practice writing and speaking in iterative communication assignments in a variety of genres and for a variety of audiences, including the design and effective presentation of quantitative or qualitative information.
4. Collaborate with peers and provide, incorporate and reflect on feedback.

5. Demonstrate an ability to reflect on the knowledge-making function of information, analysis, and communication.
6. Assess, examine, and evaluate the uses and purposes of information, including distinguishing between facts and values
7. Demonstrate an ability to read, analyse, and explain the significance of comic books

Required Text

- *McCloud, Scott. 1994. Understanding Comics. William Morrow Publications*
- *Madrid, Mike. 2016. The Supergirls: Fashion, Feminism, Fantasy, and the History of Comic Book Heroines. Exterminating Angel Press.*

Textbooks available in UW Bookstore, and on reserve in the St. Jerome's library

Readings Available on LEARN

- *Higashi, Sumiko. 1980. "Hold It! Women in Television Adventure Series." Journal of Popular Film and Television. 8(3). 26-37.*
- *Cocca, Carolyn. 2014. "Negotiating the Third Wave Feminism in Wonder Woman." PS: Political Science and Politics. 47(1). 98-103.*

Course Requirements and Assessment

We will be experimenting with Contract Marking this term. This will be explained more fully in class.

Participation

Assigned reading

In class writing

Portfolio

Summary of chosen comic

Research question

Research sheets

Outline of argument

Draft of paper

Peer Review

Class Presentation

Revised paper

Course Outline / Class Schedule

All readings must be completed before class time.

Week Number	Date	Lesson Goals	Learning Activities
1	Sept 10: Intro	Learn about the themes of the course	
	Sept 12: What are comics?	Explore the history of the genre	Readings: McCloud, Chapter 1
2	Sept 17:	Library workshop: Meet at the St. Jerome's library	
	Sept 19: Icons	Explore the use of imagery in comics	Readings: McCloud, Chapter 2
3	Sept 24: Space and Time	Explore the uses of panels and gutters	Readings: McCloud, Chapters 3 and 4
	Sept 26: Feeling and Focus	Explore the styles of drawing and presentation of the non-visual	Readings: McCloud, Chapter 5 and 6
4	Oct 1: 1940s	Explore the superheroines of the Golden Age	Readings: Madrid, "1940s: A Secret Life"
	Oct. 3: Wonder Woman in the 1940s	Explore the cultural critic in early Wonder Woman comics	Readings: Madrid, "The Queen and the Princess"
5	Oct-8-10	Thanksgiving and Study Break	No classes
	Oct. 12: 1950s *NOTE: this is a Friday!!	Explore the superheroines of the end of the Golden Age	Readings: Madrid, "1950s: The Girlfriends"
6	Oct 15: 1960s	Explore the superheroines in the superhero slump	Readings: Madrid, "1960s: The Modern World"
	Oct 17: Wonder Woman on TV!	Explore the transition from comic book to screen	Readings: Higashi, "Hold It! Women in Television Adventure Series" [pdf on LEARN]
7	Oct 22: 1970s	Explore the superheroines of the Silver Age	Readings: Madrid, "1970s: Sirens and Suffragettes"
	Oct 24: Wonder Woman, martial artist?	Explore the shifts and changes in Wonder Woman's persona	Readings: Madrid, "Wonder Woman's Extreme

			Makeovers”
8	Oct 29: 1980s	Explore superheroines of the Dark Age	Readings: Madrid, “1980s: The Dark Road”
	Oct 31: Wonder Woman: Return of the Goddess	Explore the 80s reboot of Wonder Woman	Readings: Cocca: “Negotiating Third Wave Feminism in <i>Wonder Woman</i> ” [pdf on LEARN]
9	Nov 5: 1990s	Explore the superheroines of the Dark Age	Readings: Madrid, “1990s: The Babe Years”
	Nov 7: Why the skimpy outfits?	Explore the costuming and merchandizing of superheroines	Readings: Madrid, “Heroine Chic”
10	Nov 12:	Peer Review	
	Nov 14: 2000+	Explore the superheroines of the 21 st century	Readings: Madrid, “2000 and Beyond: Mother Love?”
11	Nov 19: The Wonder Woman legacy	Explore the question: is Wonder Woman a feminist?	Film: <i>Wonder Women! The Untold Story of American Superheroines</i>
	Nov 21	Class Presentations	
12	Nov 26	Class Presentations	
	Nov 28	Class Presentations	
	Dec 3	Class Presentations	

Late Work

I do not accept late work. I will, however, grant extensions if they are requested prior to the deadline.

Information on Plagiarism Detection

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students’ submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin® in this course.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit the alternate assignment.

Electronic Device Policy

Electronic devices are only allowed in the classroom for class purposes.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory, though sometimes life happens. Everyone gets one free pass.

Important Information

Academic Integrity: To maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo and its Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity](#) webpage for more information.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the [St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline](#). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [University of Waterloo Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read the [St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances](#).

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to the [St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Appeals](#).

Note for Students with Disabilities: The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

Communications:

Students can contact me via my email address: chris.klassen@uwaterloo.ca. Students can expect me to respond to these email inquiries within two days during weekdays.

Intellectual Property:

The educational materials developed for this course, including, but not limited to, lecture notes and slides, handout materials, examinations and assignments and any materials posted to LEARN, are the intellectual property of the course instructor. These materials have been developed for student use only and they are not intended for wider dissemination and/or communication outside of a given course. Posting or providing unauthorized audio, video, or textual material of lecture content to third-party

websites, or other media, violates an instructor's intellectual property rights, and the Canadian Copyright Act. Recording lectures in any way is prohibited in this course unless specific permission has been granted by the instructor. Failure to follow these instructions may be in contravention of the university's Code of Student Conduct and/or Code of Academic Conduct, and will result in appropriate penalties. Participation in this course constitutes an agreement by all parties to abide by the relevant University Policies, and to respect the intellectual property of others during and after their association with St. Jerome's University and University of Waterloo.