

DART 480-1 COURSE SYLLABUS – Spring 2016

Course Code & No. - Section: DART 305 - Section 1
Course Title (Credits): Graphic Novel and Storyboarding (3)
Term & Year: Spring / 2016
Course Ref. No. (CRN): 10217

Phone: X7421
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Office: HAMC
Office Hours: TR 10:00-12:45 a.m.,
and by appointment
Phone: X7421

Class Meeting Time: MW 1:00pm-3:45pm
Location: HAMC, Digital Studio

Prerequisites (from Catalog): none
Corequisites (from Catalog): none

Class website: <http://snccomics.blogspot.com/>

Course Description

An introduction to creating comics (or graphic novels) and storyboarding. Students will understand and practice basic ideas of narrative visual storytelling, creating comics, storyboards, and short videos. Topics will include modes of narration, strategies for visually extending and compressing time, and devising strategies for making visually impactful images.

Student Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Identify and use the basic visual “grammar” of comics to tell a story
2. Understand how decisions about composition, editing, and sequence shape and audience’s reaction to a story
3. Draft ideas with either narrative or informational clarity
4. Cultivate a variety of strategies and “art games” for generating ideas and artwork

Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes

Student outcomes are measured by multiple projects during the term. These projects will be evaluated for the student’s ability to demonstrate the principles covered in lecture, demonstration and discussion.

Instructional Strategies

This class will utilize lectures and demonstrations, small groups, individual work in class, inquiry learning, and homework assignments.

Required/Recommended Texts and Materials

1. 1 GB jump drive (required)
2. Handouts and web URLs (provided)

Attendance

If you miss more than two (2) classes without a written doctor's excuse, your grade will drop by one letter (i.e. from an A to a B). This will continue for every three classes missed. If you are tardy by more than 20 minutes or leave class early by 30 or more minutes, this will count as an absence. If you are late (less than 20 minutes) to class you will receive a late mark, every three late marks will count as one unexcused absence.

Class Requirements:

Cell phones must be turned off or set to silent mode. You must ask permission to leave the classroom once class begins.

Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism**The Honor Code**

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

1st Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

2nd Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

Grading

Your grade will be based upon the following: finished projects executed during class and as homework; your participation during class, particularly in discussions and critiques; writing assignments and other homework assignments.

If you attend all of the classes, and do the assignments, you will have no problem in passing this class with a decent grade. Only outstanding work will be rewarded with an A. You will be expected to be in class on time and ready to work. Participation is crucial, voicing your ideas, critiquing your peers and asking questions is part of the learning process.

ADA Accommodations

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, hconover@sierranevada.edu or go to the OASIS offices on the third floor of Prim Library within the first week of the semester.

The SNC Email System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

Student Responsibilities

Leaving your work on the desktop will not be safe. It is recommended that you purchase a jump drive to store your work.

Assignments

Assignments are due the class after they are assigned, unless otherwise noted. In the case of projects, a due date will be presented with the project instructions. You are expected to have the project and assignments completed by this due date. Projects handed in late are subject to a one-grade penalty, per class. Work must be completed prior to the start of class, otherwise it will be considered late.

PRELIMINARY Class Schedule (Subject to change...)

This is a preliminary schedule of subjects to be covered. As opportunities arise, I reserve the right to alter the order and to add to or subtract from this syllabus.

Week 1

Introductions; making a collective "diagram comic." Introducing the "diary comic."

Week 2

Basics of comics language: a comic just made up of shapes, motion lines, word balloons, and other basic comics iconography

Rushing through a multi-page badly-drawn comic – plot prompts given every 15 minutes.

Week 3

Library visit to check out and read graphic novels – presentations of sequences at the end of class

The power of the stand-alone image: the single-panel comic

Week 4

Inking and drawing strategies, light boxes, different drawing/shading strategies

Gestures as storytelling – collaborative photo comic

Week 5

Collage comic – making pictures and objects say things; word balloon white-out (from photocopy of graphic novel)

Collage comic in sequence

Week 6

Image labeling – storytelling through diagrammatic intervention

The four-panel gag strip

Week 7

Time dilation and compression: extending time through sequence

Time dilation and compression: compressing time through sequence. A movie in 9 panels.

Week 8

The page as design – the page as a stained-glass window (both classes)

Week 9

Spring Break – no classes

Week 10

Information communication – sequence that explains – instructional sequence.

Sequence that juxtaposes – aspect-to-aspect, or non-sequitur transitions.

Week 11

Adaptation – adapting a literary work (both classes)

Week 12

Final, self-directed project for anthology begins

Week 13

Anthology project continues.

Week 14

Anthology project continues.

Week 15

Anthology project continues.

Week 16

Anthology project concludes. **Finals Week**