



**Instructor:** Ella Soper

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**Course Number:** ENG235H5F

**Course Title:** The Graphic Novel

**Course description:** This course offers a survey of the graphic novel, exploring its roots in comic strips and action hero series and considering the new ends to which the genre is being adapted. We will consider a range of different traditions, including micronarratives, underground comix, reportage, autobiography, war and illness memoirs, apocalyptic narratives, and wordless novels. Our consideration of the graphic novel will be informed by a close study of Scott McCloud's *Understanding Comics*, which will serve to introduce the technical and theoretical concerns of sequential art. **Please note that some of the texts on the syllabus contain graphic content (sexually explicit images and depictions of violence), and are intended for mature readers.**

Continued...

**Required Reading:** Scott McCloud, *Understanding Comics*; Sonja Ahlers, *The Selves* (Drawn & Quarterly); Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons, *Watchmen* (DC Comics); Art Spiegelman, *Maus I and Maus II* (Pantheon); Jean-Phillippe Stassen, *Deogratias* (First Second); Shaun Tan, *The Arrival* (Arthur A. Levine Books); Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home* (Thomas Allen); Jessica Van Horssen, *Asbestos, PQ: A Graphic Novel* (<http://megaprojects.uwo.ca/asbestos/>); Jeff Lemire, *Sweet Tooth* (vol. 1); Vitaly S. Alexius, *Romantically Apocalyptic* (<http://romanticallyapocalyptic.com/>).

**First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied:** Online pdfs; McCloud, *Understanding Comics*, Ahlers, *The Selves*; Moore and Gibbons, *Watchmen*.

**Film:** Paronnaud and Satrapi, *Persepolis*; Folman, *Waltz with Bashir*.

**Method of Instruction:** Lecture / discussion

**Method of Evaluation:** creative narrative (15%); mid-term test (15%); essay (25%); final exam (35%); participation (10%).