

21G.312 - Basic themes in French literature and culture
Exploring Francophone Culture Through Comics
Tuesday & Thursday, 1:30pm-3:00pm, 14 E 310

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Office hours: Monday & Wednesday, 11am-1pm

Description

This course looks to broaden students' understanding and appreciation of the world of French language comics, or *bandes dessinées*, from its invention in the 19th century to its current status as the 9th art. We will explore the history and phenomenon of *bandes dessinées*, examine the characteristics of the genre and learn how to connect the texts to the images. We will study a variety of works, themes, and graphic styles and their cultural function in society. Themes will include humor, national identities, the European and colonial contexts, political cartoons and immigration.

Course Mechanics

All class sessions are mandatory. Classes consist of a mixture of informal lecture, collective analysis and discussion of documents assigned as homework, students' presentations on the weekly theme and class discussion to engage with the main themes.

Assignments and Grades

All work will be completed in French. Students are responsible for completing all assignments on time. Grades will be based on the following:

- **Class participation: 20%** Evaluated based student's attendance, the demonstration that the students have done the weekly reading, the quality (not just quantity) of their oral output.
- **Weekly short-answer papers: 25%** On certain weeks, students will submit a short paper (half-page) that responds to the week's theme/materials (see Topics for short-answer papers). These will be graded for argument, engagement with the readings and quality of writing.
- **Oral presentation: 25%** Working in pairs, students will choose a project from the list of possible topics and dates made available the first week of class. The topics will relate to the theme of each week. Presentations will be limited to 15 minutes maximum. Students will also have to speak to the class during their oral presentation (not to read a pre-written text). Presentations will be graded for their argument, content, use of images and language skills.

- **Final Project: 30%** For your final project, you are free to pursue any question you like in terms of francophone bandes dessinées. You can write on any comics or graphic novel(s) (including the course texts) for this project and use any theoretical approach you would like. Use what you have learned in this class as you approach this final project. You might begin with class discussion, with issues that have been raised in your weekly responses, or with your presentation. You can also be creative and write your own BD. You have a wide range of flexibility here to work on a project that engages you but your project must be approved by the professor. You will submit a one-page outline before you start writing. Use MLA format. This paper should be 5-6 pages in length and will be due Tuesday, November 28, 2017.

Grading Policy

ACTIVITIES	PERCENTAGES
Class participation	20%
Weekly short-answer papers	25%
Oral presentation	25%
Final project	30%

Course Schedule

Class sessions will be divided between

- Student's presentations of the weekly theme
- Class discussion to engage with the main readings
- Analysis of bandes dessinées

Please see table below for an overview of the topics covered in each session and in each of the three parts of this course, as well as key dates for the course.

SES #	TOPICS	KEY DATES
1er partie: QU'EST-CE QU'UNE BD ET COMMENT LA LIRE ?		
Nous étudierons les différentes facettes du langage de la bande dessinée de manière à mieux comprendre la spécificité de ce genre hybride et complexe où texte et image interagissent. Se familiariser avec les termes de la BD en français ; apprendre à décoder un sens.		
1	Introduction	
2	Qu'est-ce qu'une BD?	Choix des exposés
3	Les codes linguistiques de la BD	Réponse 1 à remettre
4	Savoir lire une image et un texte	
2ème partie: LES SERIES CULTES ET LES DIFFERENTS GENRES		
La BD est-elle un art codifié ? Les codes, les contraintes, l'esthétique d'auteurs/artistes. Discussion des séries culte. Qu'est-ce qui fait rire les francophones ? Qu'est-ce que ces genres et ces séries nous apprennent sur les attentes culturelles ?		
5	<i>Tintin</i> et la « ligne claire » d'Hergé	Réponse 2 à remettre
6		
7	La BD humoristique	Réponse 3 à remettre
8	Le Western réaliste	
9	Le Western humoristique	Réponse 4 à remettre
10	Columbus Day	
11	L'aventure/ Le fantastique	Réponse 5 à remettre
3ème partie: LA NOUVELLE BANDE DESSINEE : VOYAGES, AUTOBIOGRAPHIES ET REPORTAGES		
Souvenirs d'enfance, parcours de l'enfance jusqu'à l'âge adulte, récits d'événements personnels mêlés ou liés à des événements historiques, expériences personnelles dans des pays étrangers, qu'ils soient teintés de nostalgie ou narrés sur un ton humoristique, les origines variées des auteurs nous permettront de découvrir plusieurs contextes géographiques, historiques ou politiques à travers le 9 ^e art.		
12	Autobiographie et regard d'enfant 1	
13		Réponse 6 à remettre

14	Autobiographie et regard d'enfant 2	
15		
16		Film: <i>Persepolis</i> Réponse 7 à remettre
17	Autobiographie et regard d'enfant 3	
18		
19		Réponse 8 à remettre
20	Carnet de voyage	
21		
22		Projet final à remettre
23	Thanksgiving	
24	Reportage	Réponse 9 à remettre
25		
26	Bilan du semestre	