

Fall 2016

AAD 252 Art and Gender

AAD 252 Art and Gender (on-line)

Voelker-Morris, Julie

This course considers how gender is relevant to the creation, study, and appreciation of art and culture. This class introduces and addresses socio-cultural factors influencing gender expression and discusses gender as a vehicle for understanding artistic creation and select artistic mediums in community and cultural contexts. The course examines underlying societal structures that affect how art and artists have been defined and asks students to identify and articulate personal critical perspectives regarding issues of art and gender.

COLT 370 Comparative Comics

Reid-Olds, Tera

The Mediterranean is a site of exchange between three different continents. How do individuals from North Africa, West Asia, and Southern Europe navigate questions of national and regional identity at these geographic crossroads? We will explore the way that graphic narrative – as a genre of crossroads – constructs Mediterranean identity and the impact of visual media on present-day regional conflicts. We often think of comics in terms of American popular culture, but in this course we will examine Italian, Egyptian, and Palestinian traditions among others as we investigate how visual culture shapes the Mediterranean world. Beyond studying the engagement of comics with stereotypes and representations of violence, we will also grapple with the role of translation in these texts. Our discussions will stem from a foundation in comics theory as we compare a variety of graphic narratives – from horror to political thriller, adventure to coming-of-age stories against a backdrop of social unrest and war – in order to better understand the unique capacity of comics to illustrate and complicate the tension between national and regional identities in the Mediterranean today.

ENG 280 Introduction to Comic Studies

Gilroy, Andréa

This course provides an introduction to the history and aesthetic traditions of Anglo-American comics, and to the academic discipline of Comics Studies. You will be exposed to a spectrum of comic-art forms (the newspaper strip, the comic book, the graphic novel, the webcomic) and a variety of modes and genres. You will also be required to read several examples of contemporary comics scholarship, including Scott McCloud's influential book *Understanding Comics*.

ENG 385 Narrative and Cultural Theory

Gilroy, Andréa

It's one of the easiest questions someone could ask you, but it might also be one of the hardest: Who are you? Well, it's complicated...as Walt Whitman famously wrote, "I contradict myself...I contain multitudes." Conceptualizing identity is hard enough; *representing* identity is even more challenging. Enter comics. Because the form uses both words and images at the same time, comics presents creators and readers with unique opportunities to explore the concept of identity. This course will examine the

way comics of various modes and genres represent multiple aspects of identity such as race, sexuality, and gender. In addition to reading comics, we will also read theoretical texts examining the complexity of constructing and representing “identity” in our modern world.