

Katie Burnett

An Inquiry into Comics and Graphic Novels

Though comic books have been around for decades, it wasn't until the past fifteen years that they established themselves as a serious art and literary form. With Art Spiegelman winning the Pulitzer Prize, it's obvious comics are no longer "kid's stuff." With that in mind, the aim of this course is to pursue comics and graphic novels as important and rapidly-growing contemporary phenomena with complicated and varied histories. Beginning with a discussion of the current comic world, we will explore the history of early comics and graphic novels, and finally discuss the forms within political and social contexts. Readings include texts by Art Spiegelman, Chris Ware, Frank Miller, Will Eisner, and Michael Chabon, as well as movie adaptations and critical and theoretical readings. Major requirements include 3 research-based papers and a final creative project at the end of the semester.