

Graphic Novel Seminar

Randy Duncan
Arkansas Hall 213
230-5042
duncanr@hsu.edu

Office Hours
MWF 10:00 - 11:00
2:00 - 3:00
TR 11:00 - 12:00

Course Objectives: This course is designed to help the student to 1.) understand and appreciate comics as an art form and a medium of communication, 2.) comprehend the terms and concepts essential to a critical understanding of the comics medium, and 3.) analyze how the comics art form is used to present particular concepts (e.g. - the power of language and imagination).

Grading: Grading will be on a 500 point system. The points will be distributed as follows: oral reports (200 pts.), response papers (125 pts.), final paper (100 pts.), participation (75 pts.). The minimum points for each grade are: A - 460; B - 415; C - 365; D - 310.

Attendance Policy: Late reports or papers will not receive full credit.

Participation Points: You will lose participation points for the following:

- Not being in class to hear fellow students give their reports
- Using electronic devices while fellow students are giving their reports
- Not being in class for discussions
- Using electronic devices during class discussions

Required Text: *Promethea* books 1 -5 by Alan Moore and J. H. Williams; *A Disease of Language* by Alan Moore and Eddie Campbell.

Students with Disabilities: Anyone who feels he/she may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability (e.g.: sensory, learning, psychological, medical, mobility) should contact me to arrange an appointment to discuss your needs. I rely on the Disability Resource Center (Foster Hall) for assistance in verifying your eligibility for academic accommodations related to your disability. If you have not previously contacted the Disability Resource Center, I encourage you do so. For more information, visit the DRC website at www.hsu.edu/disability.

Contact: If you do not use your @reddies email then make sure you set it to forward messages to the email you do use. If you need to communicate with me at times other than my office hours use the duncanr@hsu.edu address. Do not use Angel email. Clearly **identify yourself** in the email. Do not expect an immediate response.

Grievance Procedure: If you wish to appeal a grade in this course you should schedule an appointment with the instructor and explain the reasons for your appeal. The instructor will explain the basis for the grade. If you are still not satisfied, you should see the chair of the Communication and Theatre Arts Department.

The Henderson Principles of Public Responsibility: As a member of the student body, I will be honest in my academic effort by avoiding cheating and plagiarism. I will be honest and truthful in my dealings with others and respect the rights and dignity of all other persons.

Violation of these principles will result in sanctions of probation, suspension, or expulsion.

Assignments

5 Response Papers (25 pts. each)

After finishing each volume of *Promethea* write a brief (2 to 3 pages) paper explaining two (2) things you learned from that particular volume

- 1) Explain something you learned about communication. This can be something you learned about how the comics art form communicates meaning, or about how an aspect of the story illustrated a communication concept. Make reference to specific pages and panels, and perhaps include images.
- 2) Explain something else you learned from the volume. This can be anything.

2 Major Reports (50 pts each)

These are oral reports that will be given in class. Each report should be well researched, have plenty of images, and last approximately fifteen (15) minutes. Topics will be assigned throughout the semester.

4 Micro Reports (25 pts. each)

These are oral reports that will be given in class. Each report should be well researched, have plenty of images, and last approximately five (5) minutes. Topics will be assigned throughout the semester.

Final Paper (100 pts.)

Produce an in-depth analysis of a particular aspect of *Promethea* or *A Disease of Language*. this analysis can be a traditional paper or something more visual. Whatever the format, you need to cite your sources. There is no minimum length. You should write enough to fulfill your purpose, and you should have a purpose that is sufficiently challenging to warrant a 100 point paper.

Course Outline

This schedule is subject to alteration.

Mon, Aug 25	intro to the course
Wed, Aug 27	How Comics work lecture
Fri, Aug 29	How Comics Work continued
Mon, Sept 1	NO CLASS – Labor Day
Wed, Sept 3	Major Report: Alan Moore Major Report: Aleister Crowley Major Report: Covers 1 - 6
Fri, Sept 5	<i>Promethea</i> # 1 micro report: Caduceus micro report: Goatia & Solomon micro report: Little Nemo in Slumberland
Mon, Sept 8	<i>Promethea</i> # 2 / <i>Promethea</i> # 3
Wed, Sept 10	<i>Promethea</i> # 4 micro report: Angel of Mons micro report: Devonian Leap
Fri, Sept 12	<i>Promethea</i> # 5 micro report: pulp writer formulas micro report: Hy Brasil micro report: Margaret Brundage
Mon, Sept 15	<i>Promethea</i> # 6 / <i>Promethea</i> # 7
Wed, Sept 17	<i>Promethea</i> # 8 Major Report: Covers 7 - 12 <u>Response Paper 1</u> due
Fri, Sept 19	<i>Promethea</i> # 9 Major Report: Chakras micro report: Ouroboros micro report: tantric sex
Mon, Sept 22	<i>Promethea</i> # 10
Wed, Sept 24	<i>Promethea</i> # 11 Major Report: Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn

Fri, Sept 26	Major Report: Tarot micro report: Cottingley fairies micro report: The Singularity <i>Promethea # 12</i>
Mon, Sept 29	<i>Promethea # 12</i>
Wed, Oct 1	<i>Promethea # 12</i> Major Report: Qabalah (Kabbalah) Major Report: Qabalistic Tree of Life
Fri, Oct 3	Major Report: Covers 13 – 18 micro report: Charon and Styx micro report: Lucian / Baron Munchausen micro report: Riverworld
Mon, Oct 6	<i>Promethea # 13</i> <u>Response Paper 2 due</u>
Wed, Oct 8	<i>Promethea # 14</i> Major Report: Hermes and Thoth Major Report: Hermes Trimegistus
Fri, Oct 10	<i>Promethea # 15</i> micro report: The Great Work (alchemy)
Mon, Oct 13	<i>Promethea # 16</i> micro report: Asmodeus (aka Asmoday)
Wed, Oct 15	<i>Promethea # 17 / Promethea # 18</i>
Fri, Oct 17	NO CLASS – Fall Break
Mon, Oct 20	Major Report: Covers 19 – 25 micro report: “as above, so below” micro report: Indra’s Net / S-matrix Theory micro report: VVVV (vi veri Vniversum Vivus Vici)
Wed, Oct 22	<i>Promethea # 19 / Promethea # 20</i> <u>Response Paper 3 due</u>
Fri, Oct 24	Major Report: John Dee micro report: Illuminati micro report: whore of Babylon micro report: John “Jack” Whiteside Parsons
Mon, Oct 27	<i>Promethea # 21 / Promethea # 22</i> Oct. 28 – last day to drop with a “W”

Wed, Oct 29	micro report: Eye of Providence (eye in the pyramid or triangle) <i>Promeathea # 23 / Promethea # 24</i>
Fri, Oct 31	<i>Promethea # 25</i> micro report: Tom Strong
Mon, Nov 3	<i>Promethea # 26 / Promethea # 27</i> <u>Response Paper 4 due</u>
Wed, Nov 5	<i>Promethea # 28</i> Major Report: Covers 26 - 32
Fri, Nov 7	<i>Promethea # 29</i>
Mon, Nov 10	Major Report: Judgment Day / Revelations / End of Days micro report: Gertie the Dinosaur
Wed, Nov 12	<i>Promethea # 30</i>
Fri, Nov 14	<i>Promethea # 31</i>
Mon, Nov 17	<i>Promethea # 32</i>
Wed, Nov 19	Major Report: How does <i>Promethea</i> fit The Hero's Journey? micro report: What is Alan Moore's concept of God (or gods)?
Fri, Nov 21	<u>Response Paper 5 due</u>
Mon, Nov 24	first half of the interview at the back of <i>A Disease of Language</i> micro report: British slang in <i>The Birth Caul</i> and <i>Snakes and Ladders</i>
Wed, Nov 26	NO CLASS - Thanksgiving
Fri, Nov. 28	NO CLASS - Thanksgiving
Mon, Dec 1	<i>The Birth Caul</i>
Wed, Dec 3	<i>The Birth Caul</i> Dec. 4 – last day to drop or withdraw
Fri, Dec 5	
Mon, Dec 8	<i>Snakes and Ladders</i>
Wed, Dec 10	<u>Final Paper (100 pts.) due</u> / <i>Snakes and Ladders</i>
Fri, Dec 12	TBA
Wed., Dec 17	Wrap Party – 10:00