

LAST TERM, WE STUDIED THE PURPOSES OF & APPROACHES TO NONFICTION COMICS - NOW IT'S TIME TO PUT IT ALL INTO ACTION!

SPRING 2024

M4-6:45 HUM581/COMICS LAB! (+ZOOM)
NICK SOUSANIS@SFSU.EDU HUM 581
STUDENT HRS: M 12:30-1:30; W 10-11
OR BY APPOINTMENT



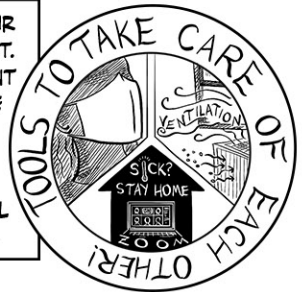
SAN FRANCISCO
STATE UNIVERSITY

CMX 675

The Lab: Nonfiction Comics in Action!

THIS COURSE WILL FUNCTION AS A PRODUCTION LAB TO CREATE PUBLICATION-READY COMICS WITH PARTNERS FROM ACROSS CAMPUS. STUDENTS WILL LEARN HOW TO TAKE A PROJECT FROM INITIAL PROPOSAL TO PUBLICATION WITH SUPPORT AND FEEDBACK FROM ADVISOR AND COHORT EVERY STEP OF THE PROCESS.

NOTE: YOUR HEALTH, YOUR LIVES ALWAYS COME FIRST. DEADLINES ARE IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY KEEP THE CONVERSATION MOVING, BUT LIFE IS BIGGER, SO THINGS ARE FLEXIBLE. **COMMUNICATE** AND WE'LL WORK IT OUT TOGETHER.



PROCESS STAGES

- WORK WITH PARTNERS TO SET PROJECT AIMS;
- GATHERING RESEARCH;
- CREATING A PROPOSAL;
- DEVELOPING PRODUCTION SCHEDULE;
- PRESENTING LAYOUT TO CLIENTS;
- EDITING, DRAFTS & REVISIONS;
- DELIVERING FINAL FOR PUBLICATION

ASSESSMENT

AS A COHORT, WE ALL NEED TO CONTRIBUTE IN A MEANINGFUL WAY. WHILE PROJECTS MAY BE REALIZED BY AN INDIVIDUAL, WE'LL WORK AS A TEAM TO SHARE CRITICAL INSIGHTS AND SKILLS INTEGRAL TO THE SUCCESS OF EVERYONE.

NONFICTION COMICS

EXPLAIN+ INFORM EXPLORE+ UNDERSTAND

PURPOSES

EDUCATIONAL
INSTRUCTIONAL
SCIENTIFIC
HISTORICAL
BIOGRAPHICAL
JOURNALISM
ADVOCACY
HUMOR

CHOOSE WHAT SUITS YOU!
INTERESTS STRENGTHS



ESSAY
AUTHOR AVATAR
METAPHORICAL
HISTORICAL ACCOUNT
CHARACTER AS NARRATOR

APPROACHES

TECHNICAL

FORMATTING FOR PUBLICATION, LETTERING, COLORING, AND ACCESSIBILITY

1

DEEP DIVE

LET'S STAY ON TOP OF THINGS - TALK TO ME REGULARLY FOR SUPPORT!

EXTENSIVE RESEARCH

INTENSIVE COLLABORATION

ACCURACY, ENGAGEMENT, & CLARITY

"EMBED" WITH ANOTHER PROGRAM OR PROJECT

BECOME FLUENT IN THEIR LANGUAGE

SOURCES, CITATIONS, & ETHICS

EVERGREEN MATERIALS

2

PROGRAMS

SHOWCASE FOR POTENTIAL STUDENTS

WHAT THEY OFFER AND WHERE IT MIGHT LEAD

3

CAMPUS

HELP OTHERS NAVIGATE THE UNIVERSITY

SPOTLIGHT HIDDEN GEMS

WAYFINDING

ORGANIZATIONS

PLACES

RESOURCES

PUBLISH AND DISSEMINATE WITH UNIVERSITY PARTNERS!

SHOW THAT COMICS BELONG EVERYWHERE!

BRING THESE SKILLS WHEREVER YOU GO NEXT!

Potential Publishing Formats

- STANDALONE COMICS
- COMICS AS ARTICLE
- MINICOMICS
- COMICS BROCHURES
- POSTERS
- ONLINE/DIGITAL
- MORE...

SPREAD AWARENESS OF OUR COMMUNITY ACROSS CAMPUS AND BEYOND!

* LET ME KNOW IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO SHARE YOUR WORK ON SOCIAL MEDIA - NS

CMX 675 The Lab: Nonfiction Comics in Action! Spring 2024

Class Meetings: M 4:00-6:45 HUM 581 [+ ZOOM]

Instructor: Nick Sousanis sousanis@sfsu.edu Office HUM 581

Student Hours: M 12:30-1:30; W 10-11 or by appointment (in-person or Zoom)

A Note about Now: Let me acknowledge to start off, current circumstances aren't quite normal, and our expectations must reflect that. As understanding as I typically am about deadlines and workload, I'm even more so now. Your health, your lives *should always* come first and we can work out solutions for whatever is going on (with a good channel of communication). I want to see the work we do together as helpful to what you are experiencing and not an added burden. This doesn't mean we won't work hard and that it won't be challenging, just that it serves you as something meaningful and relevant to find your own ways into it. Deadlines are important, because they allow us to keep the conversation moving and keep learning from one another, but life is bigger, always, and definitely now, so I'll remain flexible and we'll work it out together.

The course will be in person, but to continue to take care of each other may mean masking in indoor spaces, and we'll do our best with ventilation/filtration. If you're sick – please stay home and take care of yourself. I will be streaming the class on zoom and recording it, so even if you can't make it, you can tune in live or watch when you can to access what we did, and all the instructions and resources will be available on Canvas. The key in all of this is to reach out and let me know what's going on and what you need. As a teacher, I see my role as being there *to support you in where you are going*. With that said, on with what we'll do together...

Course Summary: This course will function as an active production lab, identifying partners from different units across campus and producing publication-ready comics in conjunction with them. Having come together as a cohort in CMX 650, students will now work closely together to learn how to take a project from initial proposal to publication. This will include working with clients (university partners) to set project aims, research gathering, navigate collaborative hurdles, create a proposal, develop a production schedule, present layout/mockup to clients, editing, drafts and revisions, and creating final materials for publication. This will also include more technical aspects or preparing publication-ready materials, such as formatting options, lettering, coloring, and ensuring accessibility.

Advisor and cohort will provide support and feedback through every step of the process. These projects may ultimately be realized by an individual cartoonist, but they will be working as a team throughout whose critical insights and skills will be integral to the success of everyone. Students will choose projects following their own individual interests and strengths, which they will have developed in CMX 675.

This experience will culminate with a showcase of the different works through the comics program. The individual pieces will be put into production through the respective university partners.

The Projects:

- 1) *The Deep Dive*: this will require extensive research and/or intensive collaboration – working closely with another program or project. You'll work to become fluent in the language of that field/discipline, and be able to present their ideas with accuracy and clarity, and great engagement. This will also mean dealing with sources, citations, and the ethics of the research process.
- 2) *Program*: Create something for a program on campus that showcases what they do for potential students, providing a sense of what the program offers and where it might lead a student. These are likely evergreen materials – that they can use for several years to help increase awareness of their program.
- 3) *Campus*: Help others navigate the university (from advising to health/mental health). Spotlight hidden gems on campus – organizations, resources, physical places, and more. This serves as a wayfinding guide perhaps particularly essential for incoming first year students.

You will choose (with advisor's input) from the potential partners and projects that suit your interests and strengths, and determine the style, voice, and way you attend to subject matter (through approaches we covered last semester). Partners may come to us (and we have made many potential connections already) but we are quite open to you finding a group on campus that you want to work with and setting that in motion.

Publishing: We'll publish these in conjunction with our campus partners in a variety of potential formats: standalone comics, comics as article, minicomics, comics as brochure, posters, online/digital, and others. Our goal is to publish and disseminate these works with our university partners and spread awareness of all the cool stuff going on here all across campus and beyond! And while we're at it, show that comics belong everywhere! (And not so sneakily, make ourselves indispensable to the university community as a whole...) The mechanics of how this all transpires will be something we work out with each partner individually, so these might all take very different shape. And this is a first time, so we are the pioneers for figuring out how these collaborations will look.

Assessment: As a cohort, we all need to contribute in a meaningful way. While projects may be realized by an individual, we'll work as a team to share critical insights and skills integral to the success of everyone. Stay on top of things – talk to me regularly for support! Our expectation is that you'll complete the three publication-ready comics, and then be ready to bring these skills with you wherever you go next!

Note: I frequently share examples of what we do in class on my educational website/social media. Please let me know if you *do not* want me to share any of your images.

Canvas: We will be using Canvas for this class. You can find resources and assistance online at the office of Academic Technology. You are automatically enrolled in Canvas for all of your courses registered at SFSU. *Academic Technology* website: <http://at.sfsu.edu> Canvas log-in page: <https://canvas.sfsu.edu/canvas>

Course Policies

Classroom approach: I consider learning as acquiring the tools to follow one's own curiosity, and thus teaching means providing a framework, establishing an environment for participants to explore and thrive. Rather than being out in front, I see my role as accompanying students on a journey we all make together. As a class, we all come from different backgrounds and offer distinct vantage points – we want to draw on all of them – to expand the possibilities for what we can all learn as we each find our own way. Hence, **Class participation** is essential! We learn in community, gain from each other's perspective. Let's be here, on time, and respect one another's point of view and discover what we can learn together. Class thrives on interaction, improvisational collaboration, so it's best if everyone is in attendance and on time. That said, in regards to my note at top – things can go awry. The main thing is to keep me posted on what's going on if you can't join in regularly – we can work with anything from a point of communication.

Late Assignments: Again, as above, I'd like to see deadlines observed or clear communication about missing them if necessary – conversations grow best when we're working together. But understanding, flexibility, and grace are essential now more than ever – so keep me updated as you can, and we can make it work.

Contact and Feedback: You are encouraged to visit me during student hours or make an appointment to discuss class, raise questions, or just check in. When emailing me, please use your "sfsu.edu" account when possible and put "CMX 650" and topic in the subject line so I am sure to address it more quickly.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a form of cheating or fraud; it occurs when a student misrepresents the work of another as his or her own. Plagiarism may consist of using the ideas, sentences, paragraphs, or the whole text of another without appropriate acknowledgment, but it also includes employing or allowing another person to write or substantially alter work that a student then submits as his or her own. Any assignment found to be

plagiarized will be given an “F” grade. All instances of plagiarism in LCA will be reported to the Dean of the College, and may be reported to the University Judicial Affairs Officer for further action.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is located in the Student Service Building and can be reached by telephone (voice/TTY 415-338-2472) or by email dprc@sfsu.edu.

University Policy on Sexual Harassment & Violence: SF State fosters a campus free of sexual violence including sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or any form of sex or gender discrimination. If you disclose a personal experience as an SF State student, the course instructor is required to notify the Dean of Students. To disclose any such violence confidentially, contact:

The SAFE Place - (415) 338-2208; [SAFE Place website http://www.sfsu.edu/~safe_plc/](http://www.sfsu.edu/~safe_plc/)

Counseling and Psychological Services Center - (415) 338-2208; [Counseling and Psychological Services Center website http://psyservs.sfsu.edu](http://psyservs.sfsu.edu)

For more information on your rights and available resources see: [Title IX at SF State http://titleix.sfsu.edu](http://titleix.sfsu.edu)