



The Lester and Sally Entin הפקולטה למדעי הרוח  
 Faculty of Humanities ע"ש לסטר וסאלי אנטין  
 Tel Aviv University אוניברסיטת תל אביב

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND AMERICAN STUDIES החוג לאנגלית ולימודים אמריקניים

## ***Graphic Novels and American Identities***

Advanced Course, BA

Fall 2019

Class Hours: Tuesday 12:15-13:45

Room: Gilman 278

Dr. Sonia Weiner

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Office: Webb 503

### **Course Requirements:**

Attendance is compulsory; failure to attend may result in failure of course.

Come prepared: required reading: **PRIMARY TEXTS**

optional reading: critical material

Written Assignments:

Written response to film – not graded.

Midterm (40%): A: December 13, 2019; B: January 3, 2020.

Take Home Final Paper (60%): Due: March 12, 9:00 AM.

In order to pass the course, *ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED!*

### **October 29 – Introduction: The Art of Reading Comics**

**Hernandez, Jamie and Gilbert. "How to Kill A By Isabel Reubens."**

Chute, Hillary. "Comics for Grownups?" *Why Comics? From Underground to Everywhere*. Harper Collins, 2017, 1-32.

Duncan, Randy and Matthew J. Smith. "How the Graphic Novel Works." *The Cambridge Companion to The Graphic Novel*, edited by Stephen E. Tabachnick. Cambridge UP, 2017, 8-25.

Groensteen, Thierry. "The Impossible Definition." *A Comics Studies Reader*, edited by Jeet Heer and Kent Worcester, University Press of Mississippi, 2009, 124-131.

Hatfield, Charles. "An Art of Tensions: The Otherness of Comics Reading." *Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature*. University Press of Mississippi, 2005, 32-67.

Lefevre, Pascal. "The Construction of Space in Comics." *A Comics Studies Reader*, edited by Jeet Heer and Kent Worcester, University Press of Mississippi, 2009, 157-162.

McCloud, Scott. *Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art*. Harper Collins, 1993. (Focus: "Blood in the Gutter" (Ch. 3) and "The Frames" (Ch. 4).

**November 5 – The Enigma of Identity: Who is Harvey Pekar?**  
**Harvey Pekar, *American Splendor*, Selections (1976-1986)**

Bredehoft, Thomas A. "Style, Voice, and Authorship in Harvey Pekar's (Auto)(Bio)Graphical Comics." *College Literature*, vol. 38, no. 3, 2011, pp. 97-110.

Kuhlman, Martha. "The Autobiographical and Biographical Graphic Novel." *The Cambridge Companion to The Graphic Novel*, edited by Stephen E. Tabachnick. Cambridge UP, 2017, 113-129.

**November 12 & 19 – Imaginative Landscapes & Latino Identities**  
**Gilbert Hernandez, *Love and Rockets*, Selections (1981-1987)**

Glaser, Jennifer. "Picturing the Transnational in Palomar: Gilbert Hernandez and the Comics of the Borderlands." *ImageText: Interdisciplinary Comics Studies*, vol. 7, no. 1, 2013, pp. 1-12.

Hatfield, Charles. "A Broader Canvas: Gilbert Hernandez's Heartbreak Soup." *Alternative Comics: An Emerging Literature*, University Press of Mississippi, 2005, pp. 68-107.

**November 26 – Film Screening: *American Splendor* (2003)**

Directed by Shari Springer Berman and Robert Pulcini

Short written response to film – 250 words

**December 3 & 10 – The Odyssey of Identity: Gender and Sexuality**  
**Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic* (2006)**

Friedman, Ariella. "Drawing on Modernism in Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home*." *Journal of Modern Literature*, vol. 32, no. 4, 2009, pp. 126-140.

MacRae, Ian. "Queering Epistemology and the Odyssey of Identity in Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home*." *Graphic Novels as Philosophy*, edited by Jeff McLaughlin, University Press of Mississippi, 2017, pp. 130-149.

Warhol, Robyn. "The Space Between: A Narrative Approach to Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home*." *College Literature*, vol. 38, no. 3, 2011, pp. 1-19.

## **December 17 & 24 – Migrating Identities**

**G.B. Tran, *Vietnamerica* (2011)**

Cutter, Martha J. and Cathy J. Schlund-Vials. "Introduction." *Redrawing the Historical Past: History, Memory, and Multiethnic Graphic Novels*, edited by Martha J. Cutter and Cathy J. Schlund-Vials, University of Georgia Press, 2018, pp. 1-17.

Nguyen, Catherine H. "Illustrating Diaspora: History and Memory in Vietnamese American and French Graphic Novels." *Redrawing the Historical Past: History, Memory, and Multiethnic Graphic Novels*, edited by Martha J. Cutter and Cathy J. Schlund-Vials, University of Georgia Press, 2018, pp. 183-216.

Weiner, Sonia. "Cohesive Fragments: GB Tran's Graphic Memoir *Vietnamerica: A Family's Journey*." *American Migrant Fictions: Space, Narrative, Identity*, Brill, 2018, 71-115.

## **December 31 – Identity in/as Form**

**David Mazzucchelli, *Asterios Polyp* (2009)**

Silver, Andrew. "Asterios Polyp and the Search for Organic Form." *The Journal of Popular Culture*, vol. 49, no. 2, 2016, pp. 325-346.

## **January 7 – Identities in Disaster: Race & Class**

**Josh Neufeld, *A.D., New Orleans After the Deluge* (2010)**

Chute, Hillary. *Disaster Drawn: Visual Witness, Comics, and Documentary Form*. TBA.

Coby, Jim. "'—it's pretty easy to forget what it's like to have-not': Envisioning and Experiencing Trauma in Josh Neufeld's *A.D.: New Orleans After the Deluge*." *South Central Review*, vol. 32, no. 3, 2015, pp. 110-123.

Davies, Dominic. "Graphic Katrina: disaster capitalism, tourism gentrification and the affect economy in Josh Neufeld's *A.D.: New Orleans after the Deluge*." *Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics*, 06 Feb. 2019, pp. 1-16.

Hoefer, Anthony Dyer. "A Re-Vision of the Record: The Demands of Reading Josh Neufeld's *A.D.: New Orleans After the Deluge*." *Comics and the U.S. South*, edited by Brannon Costerllo and Qiana J. Whitted, University Press of Mississippi, 2014, pp. 293-323.

## **January 14 & 21 – Building Identities**

**Chris Ware, "Building Stories" (2012)**

Ball, David M. and Martha B. Kuhlman. "Introduction: Chris Ware and the 'Cult of Difficulty'." Edited by David M. Ball and Martha B. Kuhlman, *The Comics of Chris Ware: Drawing is a Way of Thinking*. University Press of Mississippi, 2010, pp. i-ix.

Worden, Daniel. "On Modernism's Ruins: The Architecture of 'Building Stories' and Lost Buildings." *The Comics of Chris Ware: Drawing is a Way of Thinking*, edited by David M. Ball and Martha B. Kuhlman, University Press of Mississippi, 2010, pp. 107-120.

Godby Matt. "Chris Ware's 'Building Stories,' Gentrification, and the Lives of/in Houses." *The Comics of Chris Ware: Drawing is a Way of Thinking*, edited by David M. Ball and Martha B. Kuhlman, University Press of Mississippi, 2010, pp. 121-134.

Sattler, Peter R. "Past Imperfect: 'Building Stories' and the Art of Memory." *The Comics of Chris Ware: Drawing is a Way of Thinking*, edited by David M. Ball and Martha B. Kuhlman, University Press of Mississippi, 2010, pp. 206-222.

The Syllabus, like everything in life, is subject to change ☺