Fall 2020 Course Description

Instructor: Jason Harris
Course: 220
Title: The Graphic Novel

Description: We'll analyze representative and innovative graphic novels in the 20th and 21st century—taking our examples from realism to the fantastic. We'll examine the genre's intersection with memoir, as well as examples of fantasy, horror, and science fiction. Some of the course will also focus on the craft of comic book storytelling—but not on how to draw—and the class will allow for student creative compositions, as well as the potential for collaborations between visual artists and writers.

Proposed Readings: Textbooks required for English 220 (All paperbacks available except Rosalie Lightning)

Graphic novels:
Hiromu Arakawa, Fullmetal Alchemist Volume 1.
Alison Bechdel, Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic.
Charles Burns, The Black Hole.
Will Eisner, A Contract with God.
Tom Hart, Rosalie Lightning.
Joe Hill, Locke and Key: Vol. 1 Welcome to Lovecraft.

Craft texts:
Scott McCloud, Understanding Comics.
Tom Hart, The Art of the Graphic Memoir.

Literary Criticism:
Hillary Chute, Why Comics?: From Underground to Everywhere.