Syllabus

Department: Library and Information Science

Course Number and Title: LIS 271: Graphic Novels and Libraries

Bulletin Description: [25 words maximum]
This graphic novels and libraries course includes: a brief history of the medium, an introduction to comics theory, and how librarians are using graphic novels.

Prerequisite(s): None
Co-requisite(s): None

Course Objectives:
This course aims to provide:
- An overview of the history of comics and graphic novels
- An overview of graphic novels across cultures in a global environment
- An introduction to comics (sequential art) theory
- An introduction to graphic novels pedagogy
- An understanding of the relationship between graphic novels and multi-modal literacy skills for all ages
- An understanding of the key concepts for graphic novel collection development, library policies, and program development

Program Goals and Outcomes:
[1A] Demonstrate knowledge of the ethics, values, and foundational principles and the role of library and information professionals in the promotion of democratic and legal principles and intellectual freedom
[1B] Understand the history of human communication and its impact on libraries, and the importance of effective verbal and written advocacy for libraries, librarians, other library workers and library services.
[2B] Understand the concepts, issues, and methods related to the acquisition and disposition of resources, and the management, preservation and maintenance of collections.
[5B] Understand and demonstrate ability to interact successfully with individuals of all ages and groups to provide consultation, mediation, and guidance in their use of recorded knowledge and information, including information literacy techniques and methods.
[8B] Understanding the concepts behind, issues relating to, and methods for the following: assessment and evaluation of library services and their outcomes, developing partnerships, collaborations, networks, and other structures, and principled, transformational leadership

Units of Instruction:

UNIT 1
Introduction to course
History and Theory of Graphic Novels
A Global Perspective: Graphic Novels across Cultures and Social Justice Concepts
Response to readings/discussion forum
Writing Assignment 1: Identify and briefly describe the type of library you will focus on for this course
Writing Assignment 2: History of Comics & Graphic Novels Bibliography

UNIT 2
Graphic Novels for Teaching and Learning
Response to readings/discussion forum
Writing Assignment 3: Presentation to the Board of Directors on the Value of Graphic Novels in Libraries
Writing Assignment 4: Blurb about library program to be developed for Unit 4

UNIT 3
Graphic Novels Collection Development and Library Policies
Response to readings/discussion forum
Writing Assignment 5: Collection Development Policy Evaluation
Writing Assignment 6: Challenged Book Form

UNIT 4
Graphic Novels and Program Development
Response to readings/discussion forum
Writing Assignment 7: Proposal for Library Program
Writing Assignment 8: Program Marketing Materials

UNIT 5
Wrap-up
Writing Assignment 9: Capstone Project – Graphic Novel Guide for Librarians

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Bibliography:

Required:

Sousanis, N. (2015). *Unflattening*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

A non-fiction graphic novel chosen from a separate list provided of suggested titles.

Additional articles and chapters as assigned, freely available BlackBoard.

Supplemental:

McCloud, S. (1994). *Understanding comics: the invisible art*. New York: HarperPerennial. (**ISBN-13:** 978-0060976255)

Stein, D. (2015). *From comic strips to graphic novels: contributions to the theory and history of graphic narrative* / Thon, Jan-Noël, editor of compilation. Berlin; Boston: De Gruyter.

Weiner, R. G. (2010). *Graphic Novels and Comics in Libraries and Archives: Essays on Readers, Research, History and Cataloging / Scott, Randall W.; 1947- ; (Randall William),*. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland & Co.

Additional articles and chapters as assigned, freely available BlackBoard.

Instructional Time Requirements: 150 hours for 3 credits (10 hours per week for our 15 week semester)

 Asynchronous or synchronous Lecture
 Assigned weekly reading
 Weekly assignments (individual and group)
 Active participation in online discussions
 Research for semester-long projects (term papers, projects)
 Presentations (online or face to face)
 Academic Service-Learning projects (where appropriate)