



**FACULTY OF ARTS**  
**Department Of English**

**ENGL 529.04 S01: The Comics Canon: Maus**  
**Winter 2023**  
**T/Th 11:00am – 12:15pm**  
**SA 109**

<b>Instructor</b>	Bart Beaty
<b>Email:</b>	beaty@ucalgary.ca
<b>Web Page:</b>	<a href="https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home/399920">https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home/399920</a>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tues/Thurs 9:00am – 10:00am by Zoom. Links will be posted to the course site.

**Course description:**

Regularly hailed as the most important comic book ever published, Art Spiegelman's Holocaust-history/memoir *Maus* (1986; 1992) has played a fundamental role in shaping the way that comics are studied in the contemporary university. In this course we will undertake a close analysis of *Maus*, Spiegelman's work before and after its publication, and the substantial scholarly literature that exists on the work in order to understand how and why this particular comic gained its outsized cultural reputation.

**Course learning outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of the cultural trajectory of comic books in the United States
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the formal properties of comics
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the way thinking and writing about comic books has changed over time
4. Demonstrate an understanding of how processes of consecration operate in the cultural field

**Texts and readings:**

Spiegelman, Art. *Maus*. Please note that three distinct editions of this text exist: two paperback volumes (Volume 1: *My Father Bleeds History* (1986) and Volume 2: *And Here My Troubles Began* (1992)), a slipcase edition collecting the two, and a single volume edition comprising both books. As there is no substantial difference in these editions, students should feel free to buy any of them, but the hardcover single edition has been ordered through the bookstore.

Spiegelman, Art. *Breakdowns*. The new softcover edition (December 2022) has been ordered through the bookstore, but either of the previous two hardcover editions would suffice.

Chute, Hillary. *Maus Now: Selected Writing* (2022). Hardcover or Kindle editions are available.

Additional readings from scholarly journals are all accessible online through the University of Calgary library. A complete list of readings will be provided in the first class.

### **Assignments and Evaluation:**

**Post-*Maus* Review (20% of final grade). Due March 23.** A list of autobiographical graphic novels published in the decades after *Maus* will be circulated to the class, with each student responsible for choosing a different work. Students should prepare a report in the form of a short (no longer than five minutes) PowerPoint or video presentation about the work and its relationship to Spiegelman's work. Projects will be uploaded to the D2L Discussion Forum for the class so that other students can learn about the work. This presentation can be less formal than the other work in this class, essentially functioning as a review.

**Presentation of Reading (20% of final grade). Due Date February 9 – March 23, depending on sign up.** Students will prepare a SHORT (no longer than five minutes) presentation of one of the journal articles assigned for the day and will present it at the beginning of the class. Given enrolment, there may be as many as three presentations per day, so students may choose to coordinate their efforts so as not to duplicate each other's work, although each student will be responsible for a different primary reading. Presentations saved as PowerPoints should be uploaded to the D2L site by 9:00am on the day of the presentation so that they are ready to go at the beginning of class time. Students will also be responsible for responding to questions and comments from their peers about their findings.

**Presentation Feedback (throughout the term; 20% of final grade).** All students are expected to provide a substantive feedback (NO MORE THAN 150 words of writing) for each of the presentations made in class. This feedback should be constructive, and it will be used as the basis for the feedback prepared for your classmates. Presentations will occur in eleven class sessions and you are not expected to contribute on the day that you present. Feedback will be marked Pass/Fail and ten Passing grades will equal full marks on this portion of the class. Feedback should be uploaded to D2L within twenty-four hours of the completion of the class session.

**Final Project Due 11 April 2023. (40% of final grade).** The final project can be an essay (8 – 10 pages) or take on another form (film, data set, creative project). If a student opts to proceed with a project that is not an essay, this should be discussed with the professor so that the project can be calibrated as representing an equivalent amount of work as the paper.

- **There is no Registrar scheduled exam for this course. There are no extra-credit assignments for this course. You do not need to complete all assignments to receive a passing grade in this course.**
- **Assignments submitted after the deadline will be graded with no loss of marks, but will receive no written comments.**

### **Attendance and participation expectations:**

There are no attendance and participation expectation beyond the feedback assignment discussed above.

#### **Conduct:**

Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

### **Policy on use of electronic devices:**

The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/electronic-communications-policy.pdf>

- **Grading system:**

The University of Calgary's four-point Grading System, as described in the Calendar, ) will be used in this course. <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>

A+ / A (4.0); A- (3.7); B+ (3.3); B (3.0); B- (2.7); C+ (2.3); C (2.0); C- (1.7); D+ (1.3); D (1.0); F (0)

Any final grades that end in a point 5 (.5) will be rounded up to the next whole number before being converted to a letter grade (A, B, C, etc.) using the table above

### **Academic Integrity:**

This course, like all courses at the University of Calgary, holds students to high standards of honest and responsible scholarship. Please consult the [Academic Integrity website](#) for a detailed description of university policies, which will be enforced in this course. Cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Associate Dean of Arts for a ruling.

Plagiarism is a type of academic misconduct. Plagiarism occurs when a student presents the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of another person as their own. Another equally serious

form of plagiarism occurs when a student submits something they have written themselves for credit in two or more courses without first securing written permission from all those course instructors. Consequences for plagiarism include failure on the assignment, failure in the course, and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense.

**Deferral of term work and final examinations:**

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an [Application of Deferment of Term Work](#) must be completed. It is the student's responsibility to initiate this process with the instructor. The University also has regulations governing the [deferral of final examinations](#).

**Grade appeals:**

To pursue a Reassessment of Graded Term Work or a Reappraisal of an Academic Assessment, Consult the [University Calendar](#) and request advice from the English Department at [engl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:engl@ucalgary.ca). Please note that mere dissatisfaction with a grade is not sufficient grounds for an appeal.

[English Department Website:](#)

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English.

**Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:**

The [Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club](#) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. Our email address is [smecuofc@gmail.com](mailto:smecuofc@gmail.com).

**Writing support:**

[The Student Success Centre](#) offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

[Academic regulations and schedules](#)

**Student Academic Accommodations:**

The Student Accessibility Services website is available [here](#). University accommodation policies can be found at the following links:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-1.html>

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6.html>

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-2.html>

**Program Advising and Student Information Resources** is done through the Faculty of Arts Students' Centre. Office location: SS102; phone: 403-220-3580; email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)  
Website: <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>

### **Instructor's Intellectual Property**

Course materials created by instructors, including presentations, posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams, remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy**

Student information will be collected in accordance with usual classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty and teaching assistants. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

### **Sexual violence policy:**

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

### **Other important information:**

- [Wellness and Mental Health Resources](#)
- [Student Success](#)
- [Student Ombuds Office](#)
- [Student Union \(SU\) Information](#)
- [Graduate Students' Association \(GSA\) Information](#)
- [Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points](#)
- [Safewalk](#)

### **Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):**

Please participate in [USRI Surveys](#) toward the end of the course. The feedback they provide helps us evaluate teaching, enhance student learning, and guide students as they select courses.