



Course Syllabus German 4013

Topic: WWI and WWII Through Graphic Novels and Films
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Monday & Wednesday 12:30-1:50 p.m., CO 131

Contact Information:

Instructor: Dr. Kyung Lee Gagum

Office: Bea Wood Hall 110

Office hours: Mondays-Thursdays: 10 am- 10:50 am, Wednesdays: 2pm-3pm,
and by appointment

Office number: (940) 397-4857

E-mail: lee.gagum@msutexas.edu

Course Description

This course will explore the profound impact of World War I and World War II on global history, society, and culture through the unique lens of graphic novels and film. By integrating visual storytelling with traditional academic approaches, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the complex events, themes, and human experiences during these pivotal periods in the 20th century. This course offers a unique and engaging approach to studying the World Wars, inviting students to explore the depths of history and culture through the captivating mediums of graphic novels and film.

Course Objectives

Historical Context: Examine the geopolitical, economic, and social factors that led to the outbreak of World War I and World War II, and analyze the lasting consequences of these conflicts on the world stage.

Literary Analysis: Explore a curated selection of graphic novels that vividly depict the human stories, struggles, and resilience during wartime. Analyze the narrative techniques, artistic choices, and symbolic elements used by authors and illustrators to convey historical events.

Film and Graphic Novel as Historical Document: Investigate how filmmakers and graphic novel writers have interpreted and represented the World Wars on screen and as visual narration. Evaluate the accuracy of historical portrayals, cinematic techniques, and the role of film and graphic novels as a medium for shaping collective memory.

Cultural Impact: Examine the cultural and societal changes brought about by the wars, exploring how literature and film serve as powerful reflections of the evolving values, identities, and ideologies of the time.

Comparative Analysis: Draw connections and contrasts between different media forms, analyzing how graphic novels and films contribute distinct perspectives to the understanding of wartime experiences.

Critical Thinking: Develop critical thinking skills by evaluating primary and secondary sources, challenging historical narratives, and considering multiple viewpoints presented in both graphic novels and film.

Interdisciplinary Exploration: Encourage interdisciplinary thinking by integrating historical, literary, and cinematic perspectives to foster a holistic understanding of the World Wars.

Creative Expression: Encourage students to express their understanding of the material through creative projects, such as analyzing and creating graphic narratives, and critically engaging with wartime films.

Required Books

(available at the bookstore):

Art Spiegelman *Maus A Survivor's Tale* ISBN 9780394747231

Classwork: Participation and Attendance

Attendance is taken every class meeting. Students are required to be in class for the entire 75-minute period. Students may be counted absent if arriving more than 10 minutes late or leaving class early. This syllabus serves as notice that a student may be dropped from the class without further notification if absent more than four times.

Absences due to official university functions or documented illness will be dealt with on an individual basis and should be discussed with the instructor outside of class time. There are no excused absences from regular class periods. If a student misses an exam, he or she must present documented proof of illness or university activity to the instructor before a make-up exam will be allowed.

Make Up Work

Students may make up missed tests, quizzes, and essays **only** with a valid medical or university excuse within one week of the missed quiz, essay or test. If you know you will miss an exam due to an official university function, please make arrangements with your instructor prior to the absence and as soon as possible. If you are absent from an exam, you must present documented proof of illness or university activity to your instructor before an early or make-up exam will be scheduled.

Important Schedule Dates

Change of Schedule and Late Registration: **January 16 – 19, 2024**

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" April 24, 2024 (4 pm)

Final Exam: Tuesday, May 7, 2024 (10:30 am – 12:30 pm)

Refer to: <https://msutexas.edu/registrar/calendars.php>

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Homework

Homework (written, studying and/or reading) is due as stated on D2L. Check the schedule to find the corresponding assignments for each class meeting. Homework handouts are located on D2L. You must print, then submit the completed homework handout hardcopy in class on the due date. It is imperative

to do your homework every day, because the assignments are specifically designed to practice what has been covered during class and to prepare you for the next class.

Late Work

Late submissions will not be accepted unless due to emergency or university approved absence.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Technology Policy

One of the most important skills in learning a foreign language is the ability to improvise when you cannot remember a specific word or phrase. In order to build this skill and avoid distraction, you are asked to **refrain from using electronic devices, such as cell phones, during class time**. Unless you have spoken with me about a specific situation regarding the use of technology in the classroom, points will be deducted from your participation grade if your instructor sees you using laptops, cell phones etc. during class. On the rare occasion that such devices are required for class, your instructor will notify you in advance.

Instructor Policy

Please be polite to your instructor and fellow students. Pay attention to the instructor and to your fellow students when they are speaking. Do not engage your classmates in conversation in English during class. No food or drinks, except for water, are allowed in our classrooms.

Email Policy

I will check email daily Monday through Friday and will make every effort to answer you within 24 hours. On the weekend, however, I might not be able to answer as quickly. Please make sure that you adhere to common rules of courtesy such as addressing me by name/title (Dr. Gagum), proofing spelling, and signing your name at the end of the email.

Name/Pronoun Policy

Learning a foreign language requires an interactive classroom environment. Therefore, it is important that we strive to make the classroom a respectful and inclusive place. If you feel comfortable doing so, you are encouraged to let me know during the first week of class what name you prefer to be called and if you prefer the use of masculine, feminine, or gender neutral pronouns. These preferences can be applied just to your interactions with me or to all of your in-class interactions with your peers.

Grading

Course Grade: The following components make up the course grade. The number of quizzes and graded homework assignments will vary according to the discretion of the instructor.

Table 1:

| Assignments | % of Course Grade |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Homework Assignments | 15% |
| Attendance/ Participation | 20% |
| Reaction Papers | 35% |
| Oral Presentation | 10% |
| Final Assessment | 20% |

Table 2: Total percentages for final grade.

| Grade | Points |
|-------|--------------|
| A | 90 - 100 |
| B | 80 – 89 |
| C | 70 – 79 |
| D | 60 – 69 |
| F | Less than 60 |

Course Schedule

| Dates | Topics |
|---|---|
| Week 1 01/17 | Introduction to course Introduction to Visual Literacy |
| Week 2 01/22 and 01/24 | Introduction to Film Studies History and Films |
| Week 3 01/29 and 01/ 31 | WWI Movies All Quiet on the Western Front (2022) |
| Week 4 02/05 and 02/07 | All Quiet on the Western Front (2022) Reaction Paper 1 |
| Week 5 02/12 and 02/ 14 | 1917 (2019) |
| Week 6: 02/19 and 02/21 | 1917 (2019) Reaction Paper 2 |
| Week 7: 02/26 and 02/28 | WWII Movies Saving Private Ryan (1998) |
| Week 8: 03/04 and 03/05 | Inglorious Basterds (2009) Reaction Paper 3 |
| Week 9: Spring Break (03/10-03/16) | |
| Week 10: 03/19 and 03/21 | Schindler's List (1993) Reaction Paper 4 |

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Week 11 03/26 and 03/28 | Downfall (2004) Reaction Paper 5 |
| Week 12 04/02 and 04/04 | Graves of the Fireflies (1988) Reaction Paper 6 |
| Week 13 04/09 and 04/11 | Introduction to Comics/ Graphic Novels |
| Week 14: 04/16 and 04/18 | Maus I |
| Week 15: 04/23 and 04/25 | Maus I Reaction Paper 7 |
| Week 16 04/30 and 05/02 | Presentation/Review Final Assessment (Final Paper due May 2, 2024) |

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedures, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor and/or required by the University.