

## SPAN 3326, The Hispanic Graphic Novel

### Summer II 2019

**Professor:** Dr. Sara Potter

**Classroom and Schedule:** Bell Hall 130A

**Class Schedule:** MTWRF 11:40am-1:50pm

**Office:** Liberal Arts 231

**Phone:** 915.747.7039 (email is best)

**Email:** [sapotter@utep.edu](mailto:sapotter@utep.edu)

**Office Hours:** After class or by appointment

### Texts (available on Bb) include:

- McCloud, Scott. *Entender el comic: El arte invisible*. Trad. Enrique Abulí. Bilbao: Astiberri, 1995.
- Merino, Ana. *El cómic hispánico*. Madrid: Cátedra, 2003.
- García, Santiago. *La novela gráfica*. Bilbao: Astiberri, 2010.
- *El eternauta*, Héctor Germán Oesterheld & Francisco Solano López
- *Paracuellos*, Carlos Giménez
- *La blanda patria*, Luis Fernando
- *Operación Bolívar*, Edgar Clément
- *Virus tropical*, Power Paola
- *Bim Bom. Historias de la lucha*, Arturo Infante & Reinier Quer
- *Ánima sola*, Pedro Cabiya
- *Exilia*, Cecilia Pego

All other texts—book chapters, academic articles, etc.--will be scanned and posted on Blackboard OR available online. It is your responsibility to obtain these texts and to read them carefully before each class.

**If there are any problems finding a text, or with the format, please let me know immediately.**

**Showing up to class and informing me that the text could not be found is not acceptable.** Some films are not available online, so they will be screened in class. You will be expected to have a working knowledge of the academic databases available through the UTEP library (JSTOR, Project Muse, MLA International Bibliography, etc.). We will have an orientation session at the library during the first week of class to ensure that everyone is familiar with the resources UTEP offers.

\*If you have not done so already, please make sure you can access online books and journal articles from the UTEP library ([lib.utep.edu](http://lib.utep.edu)). There is a signup process that can take a day or two to be approved, so please do this as soon as possible to ensure that you have access to these important resources. For more information please visit the following page: <http://libanswers.utep.edu/a.php?qid=57186>.

### Course Description:

This course offers a broad overview of and introduction to graphic narrative production in Spanish in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, mostly from 1950-present. We will be focusing on the methodology and terminology of reading comics and methods of production and distribution (and why they matter) alongside an exploration of comic strips, comics, and graphic novel production within the Spanish-language canon.

### Course Objectives:

Students will familiarize themselves with various currents in 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> c. history, politics, and cultural movements in the Spanish-speaking world as represented in graphic narrative. They will also develop an understanding of the methodology of reading graphic narrative as a hybrid medium that requires equal

attention to image and text. Additionally, they will have an understanding of the methods of production and distribution of comics and graphic narrative within and beyond the Spanish-speaking world and a working knowledge of how economic networks on a local, regional, and global scale can impact access and readership of a particular author or text. Finally, it is my hope that the students will enjoy exploring these texts and the ways in which this particular medium allows for specific explorations of and reflections on history, politics, culture, and cultural production.

### **Attendance, Late Arrivals, and Participation:**

Attendance is particularly important during a short, condensed summer session, as is punctuality. For the next four weeks, we are forming a community of readers, writers, and thinkers, and as such it is vitally important to be mentally and physically present. Part of this attendance grade involves a short and informal one-on-one meeting with me early in the Summer II session (that is, by **Thursday, July 18, 2019**). This is part of your attendance grade and is required for all students, even if you have taken classes with me before. I am happy to work with your schedules to make this possible, as these meetings are a place for you to tell me about yourself, your studies and interests, your expectations, hopes, and/or concerns for the class, and anything else that is important for me to know.

**Attendance policy:** If you are absent an excessive number of times during the drop period—two consecutive absences or three sporadic ones—from the first day after the end of late registration (Thursday, July 11) through the last day for faculty to drop students (Friday, July 26), you risk being dropped from the course. **I will not do this without contacting you first; students who simply stop coming to class will not be automatically dropped but will instead earn an F in the course.** Once the last day for faculty to drop students has passed, your course grade will drop two percentage points per absence once you have reached two absences. (3 absences is 2% off; 4 absences is 4% off, etc.)

Late arrivals/early departures also carry penalties for purposes of dropping or lowering the course grade: two late arrivals equal one absence, two early departures equal one absence, and one late arrival plus one early departure equal one absence. It is *extremely* important to be on time for class to take full advantage of the time we have together, especially in a condensed summer course.

### **Course Policies and Descriptions of Assignments:**

- **Mini-pruebas** are given at the beginning of each class. They are multiple choice or short-answer questions that cover the most basic points of each day's assigned readings. 10 pts x 15 mini-pruebas: **150 pts.**
- **Reflections** are short (1 page or less), informal written responses to the assigned texts for a particular day. Some will be open-ended; others will have specific topics or questions to consider. These may prove useful ways to explore and develop ideas for presentations or essays. They are due by midnight on the day they are assigned (by email). 10 pts x 15 reflections: **150 pts.**
- **Midterm, Monday, July 22:** In-class, short answer/essay questions, open book/note. **200 pts.**
- **Presentation:** Each student will be tasked with researching and presenting a primary text to the class, providing greater context and facilitating class discussion. 10-15 minutes, visuals and/or handouts recommended. If music or film clips are used, they may not take up more than two minutes of the presentation. Any PowerPoint, Prezi, or other presentations must be emailed to me the day before your presentation as well as any handouts so that I can make copies for the class. Please limit your handout to one page (two-sided). **200 pts.**
- **Final Exam:** This will be a 6-8 page research essay on the related text(s) that are chosen in consultation with the professor, though at least one primary text must come from the syllabus. You will be expected to consult academic resources (scholarly articles, book chapters, and books) to inform and support your arguments and analyses.

- **Proposal + Preliminary Bibliography, Tuesday, July 16:** The proposal is a one-page (two sides, max 500 words) document in which you propose your argument (thesis statement), topic, and the text(s) you intend to analyze, as well as a minimum of three (3) academic resources (articles, academic book chapters, etc.) that will support your argument. NB: The bibliography (MLA format/style) is required but does *not* form part of the word count. **50 pts.**
- **Outline, Monday, July 29:** This outline will include your thesis statement, itinerary or roadmap (how you plan to support your thesis in the paper that follows), and the topic sentences and sub-arguments for each paragraph. Also include any changes in/additions to the bibliography. **50 pts.**
- **Taller de escritura, Friday, August 2** Bring the COMPLETE final essay to class for a writing workshop. **50 pts.**
- **Final Essay (+ versión del taller + hoja(s) del taller)** must be turned in **by email** to [sapotter@utep.edu](mailto:sapotter@utep.edu) before midnight on **Tuesday, August 6**. Whatever reaches me is what I will grade, so please be sure you label your versions properly. I will write you to confirm that the essay has reached me and is legible (i.e., the file is legible and you remembered to attach it to the email). **150 pts.**

### Grade Distribution

<b>Mini-pruebas:</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Reflections:</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Midterm:</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Presentation:</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Final Project:</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Important dates to keep in mind:

#### UTEP's Summer 2019 Academic Calendar:

<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/registrar/Academic%20Calendars/academic-calendar.html>

Thursday, July 11: Summer II Census Day; last day to register for classes

Friday, July 26: Summer II Drop/Withdrawal deadline

Friday, August 2: Last day of classes

Monday-Tuesday, August 5-6: Summer II Final Exams

### On Technology in Class:

I strongly encourage the use of pen/pencil and paper (ideally a notebook), and to print out the readings to allow you to mark them up as needed (also strongly recommended, as active reading will be much more interesting and yield greater comprehension of the material). Numerous studies show that it aids focus, comprehension and memory for most (though not all) students. (This is just one: <http://www.npr.org/2016/04/17/474525392/attention-students-put-your-laptops-away>.) Personal computers, iPads, tablets, etc., are allowed in class as long as they are used only for class-related activities (reviewing texts, taking notes, etc.). Please turn off or silence all cell phones, beepers, or anything else that goes off, beeps, or otherwise makes noise. Any student caught doing otherwise (texting, checking email, etc.) will be asked to put away the distracting device and will lose participation points as well.

### A Note on Campus Carry:

Those who have a Concealed Handgun License (CHL) may now legally have their guns in our classroom as long as they are kept concealed. Open carry remains prohibited on campus. In other words, none of us should ever see (or be able to tell that there is) a gun at UTEP, but if you feel someone is intentionally letting their gun be visible, **call campus police (915-747-5611) or 911**. I recommend you **leave your cell**

**phone on SILENT** not only to minimize disruption to our normal learning environment but also to make sure-- in the very unlikely event of an active shooter-- that Miner Alerts can be received without tipping off an active shooter that could be in the building. For more information on campus carry, see <http://sa.utep.edu/campuscarry/>; for more information on overall campus safety, see <http://admin.utep.edu/emergency>.

**Grading Scale:**

A = 100-90    B = 89-80    C = 79-70    D = 69-60    F = 59-0

**Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP). It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents another persons' words or ideas as ones' own. This most frequently happens when someone quotes part of a text written by someone else, either verbatim or paraphrased, without proper citation. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. Please consult the Handbook of Operating Procedures ([admin.utep.edu/hoop/](http://admin.utep.edu/hoop/)) for the complete university policy on academic dishonesty. You may also consult with Dr. Catie McCorry-Andalis, the Assistant Dean of Students, by calling 915-747-5648 or emailing [cmandalis@utep.edu](mailto:cmandalis@utep.edu).

**Students with Disabilities**

If you have or believe you have a disability, you may wish to self-identify. You can do so by providing documentation to the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS, <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>) located in the Student Union Building East, Room 106. They may be reached by phone (915-747-5148) or e-mail ([cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu)). If you have a condition that may affect your ability to exit safely from the premises in an emergency or that may cause an emergency during class, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with me and/or the CASS. I am happy to do whatever I can to support you.