

**ROML 8000 — Fall Semester 2022**  
**Contemporary Comics in Romance Language Cultures**

**Course:** Topics in Romance Languages # 42249  
**Professor:** Jan Pendergrass  
**Office:** Gilbert 238, **Tel.:** 706-542-5780  
**E-mail:** [pender@uga.edu](mailto:pender@uga.edu)

**Classroom:** Gilbert Hall 303  
**Instruction times:** Mon/Wed 3:25pm-4:40pm  
**Office hours:** Thurs/Fri 3:30pm-5:00pm  
(or by appointment)

**Comics** became an important expression of popular Western culture during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and have been the object of sustained academic attention since at least the 1940s and 1950s, though clearly one could trace the origins of narrative art much further back in time. Once dismissed as an inferior category of literature, intended mainly for children and their entertainment or their basic education, comic books have steadily gained popularity among adult readers. During the 1980s, the term “graphic novel” became fashionable, and it has been used increasingly to describe book-length comics aspiring to literary and artistic recognition. One of the many appealing qualities of today’s comic books and graphic novels is their ability to cross disciplinary boundaries and genres, touching minds and hearts in ways that other narrative art forms cannot.



**This course** will explore a select number of contemporary comics and graphic novels produced by noteworthy European, Brazilian, Francophone, Hispanic, and/or Latinx authors. The primary works will cover topics as diverse as war, politics, social issues, the legacies of colonialism, mental health, trauma, race, gender, art and architecture, the crime fiction genre, and antihero adventure. Scott McCloud’s now classic *Understanding Comics* will provide a basis for discussing techniques that come to bear on narrative coherence and psychological depth.

The language of instruction for this course will be English. All primary works are available in English, but students are welcome to use foreign language versions of the same texts, when available.

**Works:**

- Argentina: Breccia (Alberto) and Héctor Germán Oesterheld, *Mort Cinder*. Fantagraphics, 2018. ISBN: 978-1683960799.
- Argentina: Quintero Weaver (Lila), *Darkroom*. University of Alabama Press, 2012. ISBN: 978-0817357146.
- Brazil: Bá (Gabriel) and Fábio Moon, *Two Brothers*. Dark Horse Originals, 2015. ISBN: 978-1616558567.
- Brazil: D’Saete (Marcelo), *Angola Janga: Kingdom of Runaway Slaves*. Fantagraphics Books, 2019. ISBN: 978-1683961918.
- Francophone Nations: Cassiau-Haurie (Christophe) and Baruti Kandolo Lilela, *Madame Livingstone*. Catalyst Press, 2021. ISBN: 978-1946395474.
- Francophone Nations: Dachez (Julie), *Invisible Differences*. Oni Press, 2020. ISBN: 978-1620107669.
- Francophone Nations: Meralli (Swann) and Deloupy, *Algériennes: The Forgotten Women of the Algerian Revolution*. Penn State University Press, 2020. ISBN: 978-0271086231.
- Francophone Nations: Veasna (Tian), *The Year of the Rabbit*. Drawn and Quarterly, 2020. ISBN: 978-1770463769.
- Italy: Fior (Manuele), *Celestia*. Fantagraphics, 2021. ISBN: 978-1683964384.
- Spain: El Torres (pseudonym for Juan Antonio Torres) and Jesús Alonso Iglesias, *The Ghost of Gaudi*. Magnetic Press, 2017. ISBN: 978-1942367161.
- Spain: Díaz Canales (Juan) and Juanjo Guarnido, *Blacksad*. Dark Horse Originals, 2010. ISBN: 978-1595823939.
- USA (Basic Theory): McCloud (Scott), *Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art*. William Morrow Paperbacks (Reprint edition), 1994. ISBN: 978-0060976255.