



**Title: Comics & Sequential Art**

**Credit Hours: 3**

**Lecture or Lab: Distance Ed - Brightspace**

**Office Hours – Location:**

**Catalog Number: ARTS-185**

**Total Contact Hours: 75**

**Instructor: Jeff Badger**

**Contact Information: [jbadger@smccme.edu](mailto:jbadger@smccme.edu)**

## **ARTS-185 Comics & Sequential Art Syllabus**

### **Course Description**

Comics are one of the world's great storytelling media. In an increasingly visual culture, understanding the unique language of comics is more relevant than ever. This studio art class is designed for the student who wishes to investigate self-expression and storytelling using the narrative form of sequential art. Students will actively participate in projects, lectures, and discussions about the key elements and history of comics, and participate in drawing exercises that reinforce formal concepts. At the center of the course is a semester-long project in which each student creates a comic story that will be written, sketched, inked, and published in a class compendium as a final project.

### **Course Objectives**

- Recognize and articulate an understanding of the formal concepts of sequential art.
- Identify key artists, movements, regional styles, and works in the comics canon.
- Employ comprehension and vocabulary of visual art and design concepts to engage in critical discussions.
- Develop skills and experience working in a variety of wet, dry, and digital art media.
- Present and display finished work in a professional manner.

### **Course Requirements**

- Complete studio exercises and projects for critique deadline.
- Spend 5-7 hours per week on studio projects.
- Complete all required readings and lecture viewings, and demonstrate comprehension in class discussions.
- Actively participate in studio work, discussions and critique.
- Present a finished final project suitable for publishing in class compendium.

## Semester Outline

The semester is broken up into three units of approximately five weeks each. For each unit there will be instructional content such as lectures, readings, and videos, in addition to weekly exercises and progress on your individual project. A full course calendar is included with this syllabus.

In Brightspace you will see content items in the weekly folders organized as follows:

**Lecture:** a video created by SMCC faculty sharing information and examples about the assignments.

**Demo:** a video created by SMCC faculty showing techniques to complete drawing assignments.

**Videos, Readings:** a video or reading from an outside source (SMCC library, Vimeo, YouTube, etc.) with additional information and inspiration for the assigned projects.

**Sketchbook:** exercises assigned in the weekly modules in support of weekly instructional themes and the creation of projects. For credit, assignments must be formatted and posted correctly to Brightspace by the due date.

**Project:** A multipage comic story created over the course of the semester. Each week, students will make progress in completing this project. A full rubric for the project will be provided.

**Peer & Self Assessments:** at the end of each unit, students will be asked to fill out assessments. Students will complete two Peer Assessments for two classmates assigned by instructor via Announcement.

**Quizzes:** There will be an introductory self-assessment, one Syllabus Quiz, and three Unit Quizzes at the end of each unit to review terms and concepts.

## Late Work Policy

All projects and exercises should be submitted by the deadline at the end of the week. Late work can be submitted up to one week late for up to 75% credit. After one week, late work may not be accepted for credit. If you post a project late please notify the instructor.

## Book:

*Making Comics*, Scott McCloud

William Morrow Paperbacks; 1st edition

ISBN: 0060780940

## Materials

You are required to provide your own art supplies for this course. There is a pre-packaged kit of art supplies specifically for Comics available at the SMCC bookstore, and you may use Financial Aid book vouchers to purchase it. The items included in the kit are attached to this document. The kits can be shipped to you at the cost of \$7.99 ground, \$13.50 2nd day, \$18 overnight.

You are not required to purchase this kit, but it is recommended as you will need the specific items in the kit to be successful in the class. Students who already have a large selection of art materials or prefer to work digitally may choose not to purchase the kit. For additional information or advice about purchasing art materials please contact the instructor

## Grading

Criteria for evaluation include: completion of assignments; level of self-challenge, time and effort spent; quantity and quality of work produced; understanding of concepts covered; and growth and development of aesthetic sensibility. Grades will be assigned as follows:

- A The highest level of commitment, effort and enthusiasm, demonstrated by working independently and carrying through ambitious and challenging projects.
- B A high level of effort and enthusiasm. The student demonstrates a sincere level of commitment and a devotion to learning the skills of the class. All or most assignments are complete.
- C A sufficient level of achievement in quantity and quality of work. Multiple assignments are incomplete or rushed.
- D Deficiency in commitment and accomplishment. Many assignments are incomplete.
- F Extreme deficiency in commitment, understanding and accomplishment. Very few assignments are attempted.

Your grade will be calculated by cumulative points in assignments that are assessed weekly in the Brightspace gradebook. The final grade will be the cumulative total of the points as listed below:

Written Work (30 points)	Studio Projects (70 points)
1 Intro assessment (1 point) 1 Syllabus Quiz (2 points) 3 Unit Quizzes (X 5 points = 15 points)  6 Peer Assessments (x2 points =12 points)	15 Weekly Sketchbooks (x2 points = 30 points)  Comics Project (40 points)  Unit 1 Script (5 points) Character Sheets (5 points)  Unit 2 Sketch (10 points)  Unit 3 Final, inked & digitally formatted (20 points)

## Attendance Policy

Students are expected to login in to Brightspace at least once a week. This is the bare minimum. Simply logging in to Brightspace does not constitute successful attendance. Successful participation in the course will necessitate logging in multiple times a week to complete the required comment posting and to facilitate ongoing discussions. Students who do not post work for over two weeks in a row and do not communicate with the instructor may be automatically assigned an Administrative Failure for the class. If you are experiencing issues that are affecting your attendance please contact the instructor.

### **End-of-Course Evaluation**

Students complete evaluations for each course attended at SMCC. Evaluations are submitted online and can be accessed through the student portal. Students can access the course evaluations beginning one week before the end of classes. The deadline for submission of evaluations occurs Monday at 5 p.m. following the last day of the class. You will receive an e-mail to your student e-mail account when course evaluations are available.

### **For Classes with any Face- to -Face Component**

While the syllabus represents current plans, there may be changes during the semester in response to the on-going Covid-19 pandemic. Depending on the progression of the virus, it is possible that the College may have to suspend face-to-face instruction for part of the semester. If we must stop face to face instruction anytime during the semester, your instructor will contact you via your SMCC email or the Brightspace course homepage to discuss next steps for the course.

**ADA Statement** Southern Maine Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and employer. For more information, please call (207) 741-5798. If you have a disabling condition and wish to request accommodations in order to have reasonable access to the programs and services offered by SMCC, you must register with the Disability Services Coordinator, Sandra Lynham, who can be reached at 741-5923. Further information about services for students with disabilities and the accommodation process is available upon request at this number. Course policies about online testing are modified to suit each individual's accommodations.

**The Learning Commons** The library, tutoring and writing centers, and reference/research assistance (typically located on the second floor of South Portland's Campus Center and in the Midcoast's LL Bean Learning Commons and Health Science Center) will be fully available online during the **fall 2021** semester.

Here you can find free academic support through individually scheduled and drop in, online tutoring. You can also find information literacy/research librarians, and professional academic strategy/planning mentoring online. While the physical space of the Learning Commons will not [2] be available at this time, we can also work with you to set up zoom classrooms for small group study. Services are offered by appointment or as drop-in assistance.

To access services:

- Visit My Learning in My Maine Guide or
- Select the "tutoring needed or need help?" button if it appears inside your Brightspace course.

Whether On Site or Online, students have consistently reported that the Learning Commons is a friendly, risk-free, and helpful place to seek academic support. It has also been shown that those who make use of the Learning Commons do better in a course than those who do not. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this valuable and enjoyable resource.

**SMCC Pay-for-Print Policy** Each semester students receive a \$20 printing credit. The balance resets at the end of the semester and any remaining credits are removed. The College's pay-for-print system monitors printing on all printers (including those in general access labs, library printers, Tutoring Services, Campus Center Lounge and technology labs). Be sure to log OUT of the system when you've finished your printing, to prevent unauthorized access to your account. Students can check the number of pages they have printed by using the Printing Balance tool available on SMCC computers (located in the lower right corner of the screen, near the clock). Departments with work study students who need to print documents for the department should contact the Help Desk at 741-5696 to have a special account set up. To find ways to reduce your printing charges, please go to the IT Help tab on My SMCC. If you have questions about the pay-for-printing policy or your printing charges, please contact the Help Desk at 741-5696 or send an e-mail to [helpdesk@smccme.edu](mailto:helpdesk@smccme.edu).

**Refunds** Print jobs are eligible for a refund in the event of mechanical or electronic error on the part of the printer, print server, or software used to submit the job. Jobs are not eligible for a refund in cases where the job was not set up correctly, was submitted multiple times, or the student is not satisfied with the result. To request a refund, please bring the offending print to the IT Department in the basement of the Ross Technology Center. Refunds will be granted in the form of a credit to the student's account.

**Add-Drop Policy** Students who drop a course during the one-week "add/drop" period in the fall and spring semesters and the first three days of summer sessions receive a 100% refund of the tuition and associated fees for that course. Please note any course that meets for less than the traditional semester length, i.e., 15 weeks, has a pro-rated add/drop period. There is no refund for non-attendance.

**Withdrawal Policy** A student may withdraw from a course only during the semester in which s/he is registered for that course. The withdrawal period is the second through twelfth week of the Fall and Spring semesters and the second through ninth week of twelve-week summer courses. This period is pro-rated for shorter-length courses, usually 75 percent of course meeting times; please check with the Registration Office. To withdraw from a course, a student must complete and submit the appropriate course withdrawal form, available at the Registration Office. This process must be completed either in person or by using SMCC email accounts.

**Plagiarism Statement** If an instructor suspects that a student has knowingly committed a violation defined in the Maine Community College System Policy on Student Grade Appeals and Academic Misconduct, the instructor has the authority to review the alleged misconduct and determine the grade that the student should receive for the assignment and the course. The instructor may assign a failing grade for the assignment or course and may require the student to complete additional work for the course. The instructor may consult with the department chair and/or the College's chief academic officer prior to making such decisions. If a student seeks to challenge an instructor's determination, the student should submit a grade appeal. Grade appeal forms are available in the Advising Office on the South Portland Campus or in the administrative offices in the Learning Commons on the Midcoast Campus. An instructor may also refer the matter to the College's disciplinary officer for review under the procedures of the MCCS Student Code of Conduct.

In an illustration class, plagiarism may consist of presenting ideas and works of other artists as your own, without attribution. Ideally, all artwork you create in this class will be original. In some cases you may have been inspired by another artist's work, either directly or in the form of a parody or satire. This can be appropriate, but in this case you should make your research and intentions clear by contacting the instructor and/or posting information about your attribution on the discussion board along with your work. When in doubt, ask the instructor.

**SEMESTER CALENDAR | SPRING 2022**

Week/ Module	Open Date	<b>What Tasks Do I Need to do This Week?</b> <i>Weekly modules for this class are scheduled Monday-to-Monday. The weekly Module folders open on Monday morning. All assignments are due the following Monday by midnight. On school holidays that Fall on Mondays, the deadline is extended to Tuesday and marked with an *. All dates listed below. Any adjustments to this calendar will be posted in Announcements on Brightspace.</i>	Due Date
<b>TASKS / ASSIGNMENTS</b>		<b>INSTRUCTIONAL TOPICS</b>	
<b>UNIT 1</b>			
1	1/18*	Module 1: What Are Comics?	1/24
2	1/24	Module 2: Writing For Visual Art	1/31
3	1/31	Module 3: Character Design	2/7
4	2/7	Module 4: Character Sheets	2/14
5	2/14	Module 5: Comics History	2/22
6	2/21	Module 6: Scaffolding	2/28
<b>UNIT 2</b>			
7	2/28	Module 7: Building A World	3/7
8	3/7	Module 8: Perspective – Getting the Point	3/21
<b>SPRING BREAK</b>			
9	3/21	Module 9: Editorial Cartoons	3/28
10	3/28	Module 10: Value and Texture	4/4
11	4/4	Module 11: Pretty Sketchy	4/11

### UNIT 3

12	4/11	Module 12: To The Letter	4/18
13	4/18	Module 13: All About Ink	4/25
14	4/25	Module 14: Digital Formatting	5/2
15	5/2	Module 15: Deadline!	5/9
16	5/9	Module 16: That's All, Folks!	5/13

