

	LJWL(es)
	LIT3050-2 World Literature (Comics!)
3 units	
Fall 2021	

Meeting days: T/R	Instructor title and name: Breeann Kyte Kirby
Meeting times: 1-2:15pm	Email: bkirby@pointloma.com
Meeting location: RH109	Office: BAC122 (by appointment)
Final Exam: T, 14 Dec, 1:30pm	Instagram: @naturenarratives
	WhatsApp: https://chat.whatsapp.com/CPeiLL7a0kY3OmmkXib4rS

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Foundational Explorations Mission

PLNU provides a foundational course of study in the liberal arts informed by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In keeping with the Wesleyan tradition, the curriculum equips students with a broad range of knowledge and skills within and across disciplines to enrich major study, lifelong learning, and vocational service as Christ-like participants in the world’s diverse societies and culture.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What am I going to learn in this class?

LIT 3050, World Literature—Comic Book Edition! offers a semester-long examination of graphic voices from a variety of backgrounds around the world. By listening to these writers, we will address questions about gender, race, class, and agency. Specifically, we will focus on the global nature of comics and how they both reinforce and critique the stories we tell about ourselves and others, examining how these comics address social issues in various genres and styles.

We will read novels, short stories, non-fiction, and critical essays in a graphic format; we'll then discuss and question how these texts create their impact and lead us towards the larger conversation of how literature can offer moments of transformation. Class lectures will provide you with important historical/biographical information and literary theory/terminology to put these works in context. Together, we will develop the means to engage in intelligent literary discussion and analysis.

The PLNU catalog says that LIT 3050 is

An advanced study of works, primarily in translation. The course focuses on selected themes, topics, and/or eras and places the works in their cultural contexts. Prerequisite(s): Fulfillment of the College Composition requirement, [LIT 2000](#), and Junior or Senior standing.

Why do I have to take this course?

The short answer is that you need this course or one like it to graduate. The better answer is that this course will make you aware of how stories affect our lives—an awareness you can take from the classroom into many areas of your life. Being able to listen to/read, analyze, synthesize, and enact stories gives you agency¹ in whatever field you may enter.

The more official answer is that this course is one of the components of the Foundational Explorations Program (FELO) at Point Loma Nazarene University, under the category of Exploring Arts and Culture. By including this course in a common educational experience for undergraduates, faculty supports a survey of human endeavors from a historical, cultural, linguistic, and philosophical perspective, including developing critical appreciation of human expression—both artistic and literary (PLNU Catalog).

¹ The ability to act with power and authority.

COURSE AND FOUNDATIONAL EXPLORATIONS LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Institutional (ILO) and Foundational Explorations (FELO) Learning Outcomes addressed in this class are as follows:²

<p>Context: Learning, Informed by our Faith in Christ</p> <p>ILO #1: Students will acquire knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world while developing skills and habits that foster life-long learning</p>
<p>FELO 1a <i>Written Communication:</i> Students will be able to effectively express ideas and information to others through written communication.</p>
<p>FELO 1b <i>Oral Communication:</i> Students will be able to effectively express ideas and information to others through oral communication.</p>
<p>FELO 1c <i>Information Literacy:</i> Students will be able to access and cite information as well as evaluate the logic, validity, and relevance of information from a variety of sources.</p>
<p>FELO 1d <i>Critical Thinking:</i> Students will be able to examine, critique, and synthesize information in order to arrive at reasoned conclusions.</p>
<p>FELO 1e <i>Quantitative Reasoning:</i> Students will be able to solve problems that are quantitative in nature.</p>
<p>Context: Growing, In a Christ-Centered Faith Community</p> <p>ILO #2: Students will develop a deeper and more informed understanding of self and others as they negotiate complex environments</p>
<p>FELO 2a Students will develop an understanding of self that fosters personal wellbeing.</p>
<p>FELO 2b Students will understand and appreciate diverse forms of artistic expression.</p>
<p>FELO 2c Students will demonstrate an understanding of the complex issues faced by diverse groups in global and/or cross-cultural contexts.</p>
<p>Context: Serving, In a Context of Christian Faith</p> <p>ILO#3: Students will serve locally and/or globally in vocational and social settings</p>
<p>FELO 3 Students will demonstrate an understanding of Christian Scripture, Tradition, and Ethics, including engagement in acts of devotion and works of mercy.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Course Learning Outcomes for LIT 3050: World Literature</p>
<p>CLO 1 Students will closely read and critically analyze texts. (FELO 1d, 2b, 2c)</p>
<p>CLO 2 Students will recall, identify, and use fundamental concepts of literary study to read texts: terms, modes/genres, element, periods (dates, writers, characteristics, developments). (FELO 1d, 2b)</p>
<p>CLO 3 Students will connect the literary works with their own lives and with the social, cultural, and historical contexts of the works and their authors. (FELO 1d, 2b, 2c)</p>

² SLOs have been taken from Dr. Pedersen's LIT 3053 syllabus.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

What do I have to buy for this class?

1. McCloud, Scott. *Understanding Comics*
ISBN: 9780060976252
2. Abouet, Marguerite and Clement Oubrerie. *Aya*
ISBN: 9781894937900
Or
ISBN: 9781770460829
***Please note the ISBNs; this title has a few different versions. This title is also on reserve at the library and in Jon Manning's textbook lending library.**
3. Moon, Fábio and Gabriel Bá. *Daytripper*
ISBN: 9781401229696
4. Abirached, Zeina. *A Game For Swallows*
ISBN: 9781575059419
5. Bui, Thi. *The Best We Could Do*
ISBN: 9781419718786
6. Takei, George: *They Called Us Enemy*
ISBN: 9781603094504
7. Some printouts from other material placed in the PAGES section of Canvas as well as a few written assignments.
8. Various office supplies (highlighters, pens, stapler, Scotch tape, paper for notes)

****In the interest of lightening the financial burden of college education, I have placed our additional readings on Canvas rather than constructing a course reader. *You must read this material before class AND either bring in printouts of the pages or a NON CELL PHONE device to read them on. If you do not, I will sweetly ask you to leave class to retrieve the materials (including books on the days we read the above books).* Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. However, any use of those materials outside the course may violate the law.****

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

While, I have listed the assignments as percentages of your grade, I also have determined how long it should take for you to complete each one. For example, I expect each quiz to take you no more than 30 minutes; thus, I've allotted 5 hours for you to take ten quizzes. To meet accreditation, you are expected to spend 112.5 - 125 hours on this course (~37.5 hours per unit). Below is the breakdown of hours to reach that goal:

Hours	Activity	
55	Reading	
36	Class Participation (including meeting, various activities, and listening to lectures)	
26	Assignments	
	Contract	1
	Quizzes	5
	INSTAdiscussions	10
	Presentation	4
	FE Reflection Paper	3
	Creative Response	3
TOTAL HOURS		
117		

Of course, some of you will take shorter or longer to do a particular activity. The goal here isn't to be perfectly accurate, just fair in assessment of how long an activity should take you. I will not be giving partial credit for activities: you either get full credit or not at all (in which case, I will give you an opportunity to try again).

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

How do I pass this course?

1. Participate in this course
2. Do all the assignments
3. Turn them in on time

What does that look like?

You will read a lot for this course. Granted they all are comic books of some type, but you will be expected to read, engage with the text, and have thoughts about it. The weekly reading quizzes will help you stay on task with the reading. Because comics by their nature are a visual medium there are no audio comic books. If you prefer to read your books aurally, you may want to look into another literature course. Further, some of these comics do have an animated equivalent; however, as you well know, the movie is rarely like the book. I would advise you to actually read our texts, perhaps even revel in the fact you are getting to look at some amazing and entertaining art for an upper division college course.

Like all of 2020 and 2020+ (aka SP21), this semester will probably be a bit like a rollercoaster. You will get the benefit from this course in proportion to how much you engage with the content. I expect you to read, engage with the text, and have thoughts about it. The weekly reading

quizzes will help you stay on task with the reading. And there will be some sort of writing due every week usually in the form of Instagram posts. This isn't to scare you but to let you know the pacing of the course.

What are the specific assignments?³

Contract (10%): You will write a contract for the grade you wish to earn in this class and evaluate yourself with regards to the contract at the middle of the semester and the end.

Quizzes (10%): There will be 12 quizzes that will cover our readings. You need to do 10 of the 12 with a minimum grade. These quizzes will happen about once a week on Canvas. There will be no make-up quizzes given.

INSTADiscussions (20%): As we read and discuss our texts, I will post discussion questions on Instagram. You must post on the due date, and comment (in addition to liking) at least two other of your classmate's responses. I will post 12 questions; you must respond to 10.

FE Reflection Paper (10%): Drawing from your experience in class, you will choose one work from our course readings that has impacted your understanding and appreciation of cultural perspectives to some degree and write a 2- to 3-page response. It will be submitted in MLA format both in paper copy and on Canvas at the final exam.

***/**Presentation (20%):** You will craft a 4-minute presentation to present the emerging issues, structures, themes, and authorial background of a graphic writer/illustrator of your choice (and genre) we have NOT read together as a class. The selections will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. It will be your job to make your classmates and Prof. Kirby wish that we had been assigned to read your chosen text. More details and rubric for this assignment are on Canvas.

****Creative Derivative from Class Text (10%):** You will create a creative derivative inspired by one of our texts. This response can be a short comic, a performance, a written story or poem, a video—pretty much you can respond in any creative way you'd like. You will do a short presentation of your work.

Course Participation (20%): Effective learning happens in a dynamic environment. Therefore, you must interact with the instructor and the other students regularly. If you wish to earn your participation grade, you must have a good attitude; you must read all of the readings; you must do the participation assignments on Canvas or in class; and you must speak out (**10% of this grade is attendance at the Final Exam**). Use of cell phones will not be permitted unless you have an academic accommodation OR I give you specific permission. Other electronic reading devices are allowed on the days we have comics in digital format; **however, if you use your device to disengage from course discussion, I will sweetly ask you to leave that day and try again next time.**

For all of these assignments, further instructions will be given on Canvas and/or in class

How will I know my grade in the course?

To eliminate grade anxiety, I've set this course up on a contract grading model. This model means that **you can choose which grade you would like** to earn right now at the beginning of the semester and then **allocate your time wisely** to earning that grade. A written contract is due the third week of course that states the grade you intend to earn in the course as well as the work you will do to meet contract; I will then ensure you meet your learning goals. At two other points

³ * denotes a B grade assignment/ ** denotes an A grade assignment.

in the semester, you will evaluate your contract and contribution to the course. You are free to change your mind during the semester about what grade you wish to earn, but we must then meet to negotiate your new contract.

I will not accept work that is unfocused and rife with grammatical and logical errors and typos. If you happen to submit an assignment that appears to be the product of lazy engagement with the material, you risk not meeting the conditions of our grade contract; I will allow you the opportunity to **redo two assignments** if they do not meet the standards of your contract, not including quizzes and INSTAdiscussion. If I accept your work, it means you met contract and are earning the grade you chose. I assume that none of you want a grade of D or F; if you are interested in a grade lower than a C, please contact me to discuss your options.

Just like the rest of life, you won't earn partial credit for activities: you either get full credit or not at all (in which case, I will give you an opportunity to try again).

So what do I need to get for a contracted grade?

70-79%: C

To earn a C grade in this course, you will

1. Carefully read each assigned text;
2. Create a contract for your grade, evaluating it twice in the semester (10%);
3. Participate in the classroom and Canvas activities (10%);
4. Turn in your assignments on time;
5. Miss no more than 3 classes this semester;
6. Come to class on time;
7. Pass 10 quizzes with an average score of 60% (7%);
8. Contribute to 7 discussion questions on Instagram (15%);
9. Submit your FE Response Paper (10%);
10. Attend the final exam (10%).

**For a grade of C+, you will produce high-quality work and be an active and positive contributor to our classes, offering a respectful spirit and coming up with insightful ideas and worthwhile feedback both in the classroom and on Instagram.*

I will not accept work that does not meet with the quality expected of a C. If you do not do C-quality work, then I will not accept it. The fluctuation in the percentage allows that there can be variable effort and quality put in at the C level. Thus you can earn a C- or a C+.

80-89%: B

*To earn a B grade in this class, you will do all of the above **C assignments** as well as*

1. Pass 10 quizzes with an average score of 70% (8%);
2. Contribute to 10 discussion questions on Instagram (20%);
3. Create and submit a 4-minute presentation on a comic that we have NOT read together as a class, signing up for this presentation by week 3 via Canvas (20%).

**For a grade of B+, you will produce high-quality work and be an active and positive contributor to our classes, offering a respectful spirit and coming up with insightful ideas and worthwhile feedback both in the classroom and on Instagram.*

I will not accept work that does not meet with the quality expected of a B. If you do not do B-quality work, then I will not accept it. The fluctuation in the percentage allows that there can be variable effort and quality put in at the B level. Thus you can earn a B- or a B+.

90-100%: A

*To earn an A grade in this class, you will do all of the assignments listed for **B and C assignments** as well as*

1. Pass 10 quizzes with an average score of 80% (9%);
2. Create and present a creative derivative to one of our course readings (10%).

**For a grade of A, you will be an active and positive contributor to our classes, offering a respectful spirit and coming up with insightful ideas and worthwhile feedback.*

I will not accept work that does not meet with the quality expected of an A. If you do not do A-quality work, then I will not accept it. The fluctuation in the percentage allows that there can be variable effort and quality put in at the A level. Thus you can earn an A- or an A (sorry there are no A+s, but you are all A+ in my heart).

It’s halfway through the course, and I haven’t had any emails from you about my grade. How will I know if I am awesome and still on contract? Should I be nervous?

First, you are awesome! Never doubt that. Your grades do not make you an awesome person; how you engage in life does. But I know we all care about grades, so second, if you are doing the assignments according to one of the contracts listed above and you have not heard from me about them, it means that you are doing a great job and are on track for your contracted grade. **The only time I will initiate contact about your grade is if you are NOT meeting your contract.** However, you are always welcome to ask me about your grade or performance in course at any time in the semester.

Grades will be based on the following:

A	B	C	D	F
A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F Less than 59
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

STATE AUTHORIZATION

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student’s responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the times they are due as indicated on Canvas or the course schedule. All readings should be done by the day listed. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities. Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will issue an academic accommodation plan ("AP") to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not wish to utilize some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation.

PLNU COVID POLICY

Our updated masking policy effective August 4, 2021:

Individuals on a Point Loma campus, **regardless of vaccination status, must be masked indoors.**

Individuals on a Point Loma campus who are **unvaccinated should remain masked outdoors** when 6 feet of distance cannot be maintained.

Individuals on a Point Loma campus who are **vaccinated may remain unmasked outdoors.**

Even if you aren't masking and distancing elsewhere, I'm asking you to respect these requirements while you are in my course. If you don't want to wear a mask, I respect that choice, but I will ask you to leave our gathering which will count as an absence for the day.

SPIRITUAL CARE

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If students have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact the [Office of Spiritual Development](#).

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

In order to be successful, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the [Technology and System Requirements](#) information.

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

ASSIGNMENTS AT-A-GLANCE

Schedule⁴

Subject to Change as needed to facilitate course goals.
Readings and assignments are due on the date listed.
CR denotes readings found on *Canvas*.

REMEMBER:

***All INSTAdiscussion POSTS are DUE TUESDAY by 11:59pm.**
***All COMMENTS to posts DUE THURSDAY by 11:59pm.**
***Quizzes and other ASSIGNMENTS are DUE by CLASS TIME on the day listed in the schedule.**

Week 1

2 September Syllabus/Getting to Know You

Week 2

7 September McCloud: Chapter 1 “Setting the Record Straight”
DUE: INSTAdiscussion #1 (remember two comments by Thursday)

9 September CR: Masreel excerpt from *Passionate Journey*
CR: Ernst excerpt from *Une Semaine de Bonté*
DUE: Quiz 1

Week 3

14 September McCloud: *Chapter 2 “The Vocabulary of Comics”*
DUE: INSTAdiscussion #2 (remember two comments by Thursday)

16 September CR: Goscinnny and Uderzo *Asterix and Cleopatra*
DUE: Quiz 2
DUE: ASSIGNMENT Contract for Grade (Everyone)

Week 4

21 September CR: McCloud *Making Comics* Chapter 1
DUE: INSTAdiscussion #3 (remember two comments by Thursday)

23 September Abirached: *A Game For Swallows* (ENTIRE BOOK, PLAN ACCORDINGLY)
DUE: Quiz 3

⁴ Note: I reserve the right to change the syllabus as needed to facilitate our course goals. You will receive notification of these changes; after which time, you are responsible for required material.

Disclaimer: This class is taught at the college level; therefore, reading materials may be adult and/or controversial in connotation and/or denotation. The purpose of presenting such material is to expose you to various viewpoints— viewpoints that will act as sources for discussions. For this reason, no alternate materials will be provided.

This is a literature class. You will read A LOT. Please plan to give yourself time to curl up with the texts and read them.

Week 5

28 September	McCloud: Chapter 3 “Blood in the Gutter” DUE: INSTAdiscussion #4 (remember two comments by Thursday) DUE: Quiz 4
30 September	TBD

Week 6

5 October	Moon and Bá: <i>Daytripper</i> (ENTIRE BOOK, PLAN ACCORDINGLY) DUE: INSTAdiscussion #5 (remember two comments by Thursday)
7 October	McCloud: Chapter 4 “Time Frames” CR: Okorafor and various artists excerpt from <i>Black Panther, Long Live the King</i> DUE: Quiz 5 DUE: ASSIGNMENT 4-Minute Presentation CHOOSE A COMIC (A- and B-Contract)

Week 7

12 October	McCloud: Chapter 5 “Living in the Line” CR: R.Crumb excerpt from <i>Genesis</i> DUE: INSTAdiscussion #6 (remember two comments by Thursday)
14 October	CR: Hwa excerpt from <i>The Color of Earth</i> DUE: Quiz 6

Week 8

19 October	CR: McCloud <i>Making Comics Chapter 3</i> DUE: Quiz 7 DUE: ASSIGNMENT Contract Reflection 1 (Everyone)
21 October	NO CLASS DUE: PARTICIPATION Mid-Course Survey (Everyone)

Week 9

26 October	Aboutet and Oubrierie <i>Aya</i> (ENTIRE BOOK, PLAN ACCORDINGLY) *On reserve at library (remember to check for the correct ISBN) DUE: INSTAdiscussion #7 (remember two comments by Thursday)
28 October	CR: McCloud <i>Making Comics Chapter 4</i> DUE: Quiz 8

Week 10

2 November	McCloud: Chapter 8 “A Word About Color” DUE: INSTAdiscussion #8 (remember two comments by Thursday)
4 November	CR: Maroh excerpt from <i>Blue is the Warmest Color</i> DUE: Quiz 9 DUE: ASSIGNMENT 4-Minute Presentation POSE A PRESENTATION FOCUS (A- and B-Contract)

Week 11

9 November	Takei <i>They Called Us Enemy</i> DUE: INSTAdiscussion #9 (remember two comments by Thursday) DUE: Quiz 10
11 November	TBD

Week 12

16 November	CR: Masamune excerpt from <i>The Ghost in the Shell</i> DUE: INSTAdiscussion #10 (remember two comments by Thursday) DUE: Quiz 11
18 November	TBD

Week 13 – Thanksgiving Break

23 November	TBD DUE: INSTAdiscussion #11 (remember two comments by Thursday)
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Week 14

30 November	Bui: <i>The Best We Could Do</i> (ENTIRE BOOK, PLAN ACCORDINGLY) DUE: INSTAdiscussion #12 (remember two comments by Thursday)
2 December	McCloud: Chapter 9 “Putting It All Together” CR: Gaiman excerpt from <i>Sandman</i> DUE: Quiz 12 DUE: PARTICIPATION Course Evaluation (Everyone)

Week 15

7 December	PRESENTATIONS ASSIGNMENT Comment on Peer’s Presentations (in class worksheet)
9 December	PRESENTATIONS PARTICIPATION: Comment on Peer’s Presentations (in class worksheet) DUE: ASSIGNMENT Contract Evaluation 2 (Everyone)

FINALS WEEK

14 December	FINAL 1:30 – 4pm DUE: Final Creative Project from Class Text (A-Contract) DUE: ASSIGNMENT FE Reflection Papers (Everyone)
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