

POLITICS & THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

PSC 394 Special Topics in Political Science Cross-Listed with ART 395 Special Topics in Art History

dehumanization

how
"big lies"
live on

cultural
trauma
& memory

state violence &
accountability

when states fail

war as
"apocalypse"

economic
catastrophe

why societies
fall apart

organized
protest

PSC 394 SPECIAL TOPICS

Politics & the Graphic Novel

FALL 2024 | T/TH 2:00 – 3:15 pm |

3 Credit Hours

Dr. Jeffrey Lewis

Read graphic novels to shed new light on how Political Science can think about important issues with contemporary significance and potential consequences for future change. Each topic delves into an exemplar graphic novel, and spans traditional disciplinary boundaries with rich insight. At the broadest level, the graphic novel (or generically speaking, "comics") allows one to "think big" about how humanity is shaped by diverse forces including economics, law, regulation, state authority, legitimacy, myth, ideology, organized violence, protest, social movements, collective identities, and catastrophic events/trauma. You'll also learn about how comics are made and how the vocabulary of the "sequential art" form provides a visual culture and form of "seeing" that can be deeply illuminating.

MAJOR TOPICAL THEMES:

- Economic Insecurity, Crises, and Society
- Cultural Assimilation, Repression, and Memory
- Organized Protest, State Violence, and Accountability
- Conspiracy, Myth, and Dehumanizing the "Other"
- War, State Failure, and Patterns of "Apocalypse"

READINGS INCLUDE:

- Scott McCloud (1993), *Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art*
- James Vance and Dan Burr (2006/1990), *Kings in Disguise*
- Joe Sacco (2020), *Paying the Land*
- Derf Backderf (2020), *Kent State: Four Dead in Ohio*
- Will Eisner (2005), *The Plot: The Secret Story of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion*
- Joe Kubert (2003), *Yossel, April 19, 1943*
- Joe Sacco (2000), *Safe Area Gorazde: The War in Eastern Bosnia 1992-1995*

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

See a write-up of the original 2022 version on the Cleveland Teaching Collaborative for more details.

<https://cleteaching.org/teaching-politics-using-comics/>

For questions, contact
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