

**Course Syllabus
HSC 616 Graphic Medicine
(cross-listed w/HUM450AJ)
Spring 2022**

Faculty Information:

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Course Information:

HSC 616 – Graphic Medicine Credits: 3

This is an online course. Students may review each weekly lesson at a time convenient to their individual schedules within the week, but must remain current by completing each lesson and/or assignment within the timeframe indicated in this document.

Course Description:

Students will prepare for new modalities of healthcare narrative and visual communication via comics and graphic novels. They will gain a literacy in the sequentialized hybrid of word and image for growing insights and improved value to patient, healthcare, and clinical experiences.

Text/ Primary Course Materials:

Required Text:

1. Czerwiec, M. K. (2017). *Taking turns: Stories from HIV/AIDS care unit 371*. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press.*
2. Czerwiec, M. K., Williams, I., Squier, S. M., Green, M. J., Myers, K. R., & Smith, S. T. (2015). *Graphic medicine manifesto*. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press.
3. Hamdy, S., Nye, C., Bao, S., & Brewer, C. (2017). *Lissa: A story about medical promise, friendship, and revolution*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.*
4. Starlin, J., Englehart, S., Moench, D., Broderick, P., Abel, J., & Patterson, B. (2018). *The death of Captain Marvel*. New York: Marvel.*
5. Williams, I. (2015). *The bad doctor: The troubled life and times of Dr. Iwan James*. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press.
6. Supplemental articles and readings as assigned

*available digitally, but page numbers must be provided for citations in students' writing.

Any edition of our main texts may be used so long as the chapters and divisions are consistent with those provided at the MCPHS bookstore and on reserve at the Library.

Recommended Text:

1. American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Other Resources:

1. Dunlap-Shohl, P. (2016). *My degeneration: A journey through Parkinson's*. University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press.
2. Fies, B. (2008). *Mom's cancer*. New York: Abrams ComicArts.
3. Forney, E. (2013). *Marbles: Mania, depression, Michelangelo, and me*. New York: Robinson.
4. Lindsay, R. (2018). *Rx: A graphic memoir*. New York: Grand Central Publishing.
5. Perry, S. D., Manning, M. K., Doyle, M., and Holladay, S. (2018). *Anatomy of a metahuman*. San Rafael, CA: Insight Editions.
6. Roca, P. (2016). *Wrinkles*. Seattle: Fantagraphics Books.
7. Useful website for APA style guidelines from the [Purdue Online Writing Lab](https://www.purdue.edu/owl/)

Course Objectives:

1. Relate a basic understanding of overall Comics Studies in terms of Graphic Medicine (GM);
2. Define Graphic Medicine, identify significant works, and outline their uses;
3. Plan a clinical or scholarly application of Graphic Medicine;
4. Express an outside perspective on the subfield from the view of a healthcare expert, artist, or scholar;
5. Theorize future collaborations, expansions, therapies, treatments, or studies *vis a vis* GM; and
6. Develop multimedia presentations in support of GM's deployment in a healthcare setting.

Assessment of Student Learning and Teaching Effectiveness:

This course will be offered online using Blackboard as the course learning management system. Narrated PowerPoint slides or video links will be posted to Blackboard to present each topic by unit. Students will read the assigned *Readings* outlined in the course calendar for each topic prior to viewing the PowerPoint presentation or lecture for that topic. After reviewing them, students will participate in associated discussion board activities to promote learning via reflection. A final research paper as well as various other assignments will be used to assess the course objectives.

Course Requirements: (Fill in each category below)

1. **Quizzes** 16%

Each of the four **Quizzes** will “unlock” for the current Unit; the students will have until the end of that Unit to complete it. The Quizzes consist of no essay questions and pertain to the instructor's lectures, assigned readings, and assigned videos; questions about a previous graphic novel or earlier lecture could arise, at random, in the Quiz. Students are allowed individually to use all their personal notes and their books while taking the quiz but searching the internet for answers or collaborating together is strictly prohibited. Though there is no time limit, Quizzes must be completed in one session. Additionally, if any attempt is taken before each Quiz's deadline, a student will not be scored lower than 59%.

Quizzes will be scored automatically by Blackboard. If students feel an answer was marked incorrectly by the system, they should contact the instructor directly by e-mail or schedule time to meet live during office hours to explain what they perceive to be the correct answer(s).

2. **Essay** 6%

For the Unit 5 Essay, students are provided with a list of questions that will inform the entire semester. Some of these may be made public in advance of Unit 5, so students should both review the list fully and have it firmly in mind when conducting their reading and note-taking. Each of the individual responses do not have to be traditional essay-length nor have to include an introduction and conclusion. Instead, a rational, well-supported response of roughly three paragraphs apiece will suffice.

The Papers must be in APA format and should be evaluated by another student in the class, by the Writing Center, or a student's optional outside GM consultant, ideally. Undergraduate students are not required to conduct these evaluations for peers, but those who do (and do so both honestly and frankly) will be recognized; moreover, students can evaluate more than once. **Graduate students will be *required* to conduct at least one peer review.** Students are responsible for finding and arranging reviewers themselves.

Essay will have a final draft due via the TurnItIn.com link on Blackboard. **Please submit your file in either a .docx, .doc, or .rtf format;** Mac .pages files are not accepted but can be easily converted in advance. Additionally, links to Google Drive or OneDrive files are not accepted. All files are due no later than 11:59 PM local Boston time on the date given; while *far* better than receiving zero (0) credit, late submissions will be penalized 5% for each 24-hour period they are delayed (including those submitted even at midnight, a minute beyond the due date). Except in the case of a documented family or health emergency, student conflicts with the due dates should be discussed with the instructor *at least* two weeks in advance. **Technical/computer difficulties do not count as excused emergencies.**

3. **Midterm** 15%

The Midterm will have the same requirements as the Essay, above, except a full-length treatment of the provided graphic novel and prompt is expected (e.g. an introduction, conclusion, and reference page). The required length of students' submissions will be specified on the Midterm itself, in terms of *complete* pages; one paragraph on a sixth page does not constitute having completed six pages nor does the space taken up by a first-page header. **Graduate students will have a more rigorous prompt than that of the undergraduates.**

4. **Final** 20%

The Final will be based on the NIH's U.S. National Medical Library ultimate exercise, with minor variations noted for both our online and credit-bearing course experience. An accompanying rubric will be included as well as a stated deadline and submission service via e-mail. Students may contact the instructor in advance if they choose to submit a hard copy, but in-person delivery may be limited to the instructor's availability/proximity. As with technical/computer

difficulties, personal art (in)ability will not be counted as an excused emergency, particularly since it will not be a factor in the **rubric** provided in advance.

5. **Exercises** 16%

Each of the three assigned exercises calls for altogether different creative, analytical, and integrative skillsets, so their grading will be determined by provided rubrics. They should be submitted either via Discussion Board upload (in which case, specific naming conventions will need to be followed) or in person via appointment with the instructor; as with the Final, live delivery may be limited to the instructor's availability/proximity. Group work will not be accepted, but students are welcome to share ideas and approaches with each other freely.

6. **Lectures** 15%

For each Unit, the instructor will record a video lecture for students' use and response. In some, the instructor will review a piece of scholarship relevant to the current graphic novel(s), giving students an opportunity to better understand analysis of the book, to familiarize themselves with pertinent scholarship on the genre, and to respond with their own relevant insights. **Via GoReact**, students will post a thoughtful and analytical Comment of 100+ written or spoken words on the video. Then, at the same level of rigorousness, they will also respond to one of their peers; responding to a question or point made by the instructor per your Comment will not count toward the Unit minimum but will be considered in terms of overall quality for the grade. **Thus, students are encouraged to post *more than once per Unit* and to do so well before the Unit deadline.** The inclusion of material from optional links, articles, or creative works either provided by the instructor or sought out by the student will enhance the overall assessment of this engagement. **Graduate students will be evaluated at a higher standard than their undergraduate classmates for professionalism, insight, and resources.**

7. **Presentation** 12%

After five lectures by the instructor and several outside videos/podcasts, students will have the opportunity to construct and deliver their own presentation on a particular aspect of GM pertinent to their studies or careers. A full rubric will be provided, and editing skill, while not required, will be noted; stellar presentations will be invited to publish publicly.

NOTE: Graduate students may be evaluated using a more advanced rubric on these assignments in addition to the adjustments listed above.

Assignments and Grading

All assignments are to be turned in on the due date indicated by 11:59 p.m. EST via the Blackboard learning management system (see the assignment for the specific method). Unless prior approval has been granted from your instructor, two percent (2%) will be deducted for each calendar day late past due date. Faculty reserves the right to not accept any assignments submitted more than three (3) calendar days after the due date.

Grading

Grades for the course assignments/requirements listed above will be posted via the Blackboard Grade Center. Students are strongly encouraged to maintain copies all assignments, projects, proposals, and discussion posts submitted for your own records and so your work can be resubmitted if there is a posting or transmission error.

Grading Scale

Please note that the graduate grade scheme does not include the grades that are Bolded. Students receiving below a passing grade in graduate level courses will be graded with an F, regardless of the letter grade. Check the grading policies for your program in the University Catalog.

Doctorate students must pass the course with a minimal grade of 83%/B

Masters students must pass the course with a minimal grade of 80%/B-

A	100-93	C+	79-78
A-	92-90	C	77-73
B+	89-88	C-	72-70
B	87-83	D	69-60
B-	82-80	F	<60

Citations

All assignments, papers, discussion boards and otherwise will follow American Psychological Association (APA) style guidelines. **There are no exceptions.**

Plagiarism and Similarity Checking

Students are expected to abide by the University Academic Honesty Policy as explained in the Student Handbook and University Catalog. Plagiarism is considered a violation of this policy. Plagiarism is defined as submitting another person's work as one's own without proper acknowledgment or using the words or ideas of others without crediting the source of those words or ideas. To deter plagiarism and ensure appropriate use of resources in student research and learning, the University subscribes to verification services like Turnitin. Students must submit their written work via Blackboard where similarity checking is carried out and authenticity verified.

All incidents of plagiarism either intentional or unintentional will be reported to the Dean of Students as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Any student who does not resubmit their work within 7 calendar days as outlined above will receive a 0% for the assignment. Plagiarism offenses are accumulative throughout a student's academic tenure.

Reuse of Your Own Work: Self-Plagiarism

Plagiarism includes submitting the same work for assignments in more than one class (copying from oneself) without permission from the instructor and/or appropriate citation, the same or subsequent semesters. If you are retaking a course in a subsequent semester, you must seek approval from your current course instructor about the reuse of materials submitted previously for class assignments and discussions. Your instructor reserves the right to deny this request. If you previously submitted an assignment via Turnitin and you submit the same work for another course or a retake, it will show up on the similarity report as possible plagiarism.

Access to Coursework after the Semester

You will not be able to access course materials or assignments after Blackboard access for the semester has ended. If you think you might need to reference your work at a later date, be sure you have saved a separate copy of your assignments, papers, and discussions. Faculty cannot provide access to courses after the semester has ended.

Course Policies

Any issues arising from the syllabus or course requirements should be addressed to the course faculty immediately. If changes to the syllabus are required the faculty member will notify students of the changes.

Documented Absence Process

To be permitted to make up missed coursework MCPHS students must seek a documented absence from the [Dean of Students office](#). In all cases, it is the student's responsibility to notify the Dean of Students. In the case of an absence (anticipated or urgent), every effort must be made to notify course faculty AND the Dean of Students office. Email notification is preferred.

Regardless of the reason for absence, a student must notify the Dean of Students office and their course faculty or preceptor of the absence. **Students must also complete the online form and upload supporting documentation within five (5) business days from the first date of absence to the Dean of Students office.** A documented absence does not always excuse a student from missing academic work. Students are expected to abide by the course syllabus and academic program's policy related to class absences. Reasons of work conflict, travel, and poor time management are not eligible for documented absence, and acceptance of late work is solely at the instructor's discretion. Permitted absences do not exclude the enforcement of the late submission policy with potential point deductions.

Email Statement

All MCPHS students are required to open, utilize, and maintain the MCPHS email account they are assigned within limits set by Information Services. Official college communications and notices, including communications for this course are ONLY delivered to MCPHS email accounts. All students are responsible for regularly checking their MCPHS email and for information contained therein.

Guidelines for Faculty Email Communications and Questions

You are strongly encouraged to use the Q&A section of the course to post course/assignment-specific questions as peers may either have the answer or benefit from the responses. When you need to contact the faculty by email, they will respond to email messages in a timely manner, generally within 24 hours. Note that weekends and other University holidays affect the timing of email responses from faculty. Students are expected to treat faculty, peers and group members with the same respect that they expect and deserve.

Office of Student Access and Accommodations (OSAA)

A student's right to equal education is protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. All students must abide by the Academic Policies and Procedures set forth in the MCPHS Academic Catalog. Questions regarding accommodations can be directed to the Office of Student Access and Accommodations.

Under the ADA/Section 504, students with documented disabilities/conditions, that impact their access to education, and wish to request reasonable accommodations can contact the Office of Student Access and Accommodations (OSAA). To initiate services, students can complete the Student Request for Services Form: https://mcphs-accommodate.symplicity.com/public_accommodation/

OSAA can be contacted via email at OSAA@mcphs.edu or via phone at 617-879-5995.

Course Outline

Unit	Topics, Readings, and Assignments				Duration
Unit 1	Comics Studies primer				2 weeks
Jan. 10-16, 18-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terminology Scholars Approaches 	<i>Graphic Medicine Manifesto</i> (Into & Chapter 1)	NIH Exercise	Content Quiz	Choose Pro Consult, Comments on lecture video
Unit 2	Graphic Medicine origins				3 weeks
Jan. 24- Feb. 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literature Storytelling Applications Use(s) of Silence 	<i>The Bad Doctor,</i> <i>Taking Turns,</i> <i>GMM</i>	NIH Exercise	Content Quiz	Comments on lecture videos
Unit 3	Associated Disciplines				2 weeks
Feb. 14-20, 22-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrative Medicine Disability Studies Art Therapy/History 	<i>Death of Captain Marvel,</i> <i>GMM</i>		Content Quiz	Comments on lecture videos
MIDTERM (due February 28th)					
Unit 4	GM in the Field				3 weeks
Feb. 28- Mar. 6, Mar. 14-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comics Industry Academia Healthcare Medicine 	<i>Lissa,</i> <i>GMM</i>	NIH Exercise	Content Quiz	Comments on lecture videos
Unit 5	GM Specialties				4 weeks
Mar. 28- Apr. 23rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cancer Mental Health Aging Pharma Medical Illustration Neurology COVID-19 		Presentation (due by 4/22)	Content Essay (due by 4/18)	Comments on lecture videos (due by 4/18)

FINAL (due April 26th)

This syllabus is a “living document” and subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.

Course Assignments/Rubrics

Course assignments/requirements/rubrics can be listed here.

Students must abide by the Academic Policies and Procedures set forth in the MCPHS University Catalog and Student Handbook. Important information regarding Description of Credit Hour Policy, Excused Absence Approval, Disability Support Services for students, Academic Honesty and Plagiarism and other academic policies is set forth in the Academic Policies and Procedures section of the MCPHS Catalog.

MCPHS University Course Catalog

<https://www.mcphs.edu/academics/university-course-catalog>

MCPHS University Student Handbook

<https://my.mcphs.edu/departments/student-affairs>

Students must read, understand, and comply with all of these policies and procedures.