

Instructor: Kling Ádám Márton
Office hours: by appointment
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Shakespeare and His Age in Comic Books

BBN-ANG17-312/13

Course Description

This course offers its participants analyses of contemporary English comic books compared to early modern literary texts and relevant academic sources. The primary goal is to introduce the modern reader to the Shakespearean Myth and early modern popular culture from the viewpoint of graphic narratives. Throughout the semester we will be focusing on comic books written by Neil Gaiman (*The Sandman*, *Marvel 1602*), Peter David (*1602 – Fantastick Four*) and Kieron Gillen & Marguerite Bennett (*1602 Witch Hunter Angela*).

Requirements

Regular attendance (you are allowed to miss 3 classes) and in-class participation are essential in order to pass. Besides submitting an end-term essay (5-6 pages), students will also be asked to bring three questions (accompanied by short, 1-3 sentence answers) for every class, based on the weekly texts. The questions will be collected at the end of each class (You can either print them or write them down on a small piece of paper, but please make sure that your handwriting is legible enough and they have a date and your name on it!).

Suggested Secondary Readings:

Campbell, Joseph. *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*. Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press, 2004. Print.

Eisner, Will. *Comics & Sequential Art*. Tamarac, Fla: Poorhouse Press, 1985. Print.

McCloud, Scott. *Understanding Comics: [the Invisible Art]*. New York: Harper Perennial, 1994. Print.

Perret, Marion D. "Not Just Condensation: How Comic Books Interpret Shakespeare." *College Literature*, vol. 31, no. 4, 2004, pp. 72–93. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/25115229.

Potter, Lois. *The Life of William Shakespeare: A Critical Biography*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.

Saraceni, Mario. *The Language of Comics*. Routledge, 2003.

Additional Comic Books for your Consideration:

Greg Pak: *1602 – New World #1-5*

Jeff Parker: *1602 – Spider-Man #1-5*

Ian Doescher: *Much Ado About Deadpool*

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Schedule 2020 Spring

	Date of Class	Subject	Reading
1	February 14	Introduction	
2	February 21	Comic Books: Basics, Definitions	
3	February 28	The Shakespearean Myth pt.1	<i>The Sandman #13</i> <i>The Sandman #19</i> (also <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>)
4	March 6	The Shakespearean Myth pt.2	<i>The Sandman #19</i> <i>The Sandman #75</i> (also <i>The Tempest</i>)
5	March 13	Marvel meets Shakespeare pt.1– The narrative landscape of Marvel's early modern England	<i>Marvel 1602 #1-4</i>
6	March 20	Marvel meets Shakespeare pt.2 – The X-Men and the early modern witch craze	<i>Marvel 1602 #5-8</i> (also <i>Macbeth</i>)
7	March 27	A comedic Shakespearean portrait pt.1	<i>1602 -Fantastick Four #1-3</i>
8	April 3	A comedic Shakespearean portrait pt.2	<i>1602 -Fantastick Four #3-5</i>
9	April 10	Spring break	no class!
10	April 17	The playwright and his contemporaries pt.1 – Marlowe's Faustus and Spencer's Faerie Queen reconfigured	<i>1602 – Witch Hunter Angela</i> <i>#1-2</i>
11	April 24	The playwright and his contemporaries pt.2 – Marlowe's Faustus and Spencer's Faerie Queen reconfigured	<i>1602 – Witch Hunter Angela</i> <i>#3-4</i>
12	May 1 Deadline of end-term essay → May 5	Labour day	no class!
13	May 8	Pázmány day	no class!
14	May 15	Grades and assessment	