Comic Series/Graphic Narrative Analysis

Assignment for “Queering Comics”

By Jess Whatcott

# Purpose:

The purpose of this assignment is for you to apply the concepts and theories from class to your own reading of a comic book, comic strip, or graphic narrative.

# Instructions:

* Choose from the list below one comic series you will focus on. If you want to go beyond this list you will need permission from the instructor.
* Choose one or more of the themes and concepts from class to analyze your object. Some comics will lend themselves to some topics more than others:
  + **Queer absences** – What’s missing from this comic? How might the Comics Code Authority, Cold War fears about sexuality, and/or heteronormativity have contributed to the absence of queer content?
  + **Queer presences** – What is the queer subtext in this comic? How can we practice tactical misrecognition in this comic? Or other techniques of queer reading?
  + **Creating queer culture** – How has your comic been a platform for an out LGBTQ+ creator? What issues or experiences unique to LGBTQ+ people does your comic explore?
  + **Backlash and censorship** – Have there been negative reactions to your comic, or attempts to censor or remove your comic from public libraries or schools?
  + **Addressing racism in LGBTQ+ texts and decentering whiteness** – How is race discussed (or not) in your comic? Have there been critiques of the depiction of race in your comic? Or does your comic explore the intersection of race and sexuality in important ways?
  + **Other kinds of intersectional analysis** – Does your comic explore any other intersections with sexuality, such as disability, religion, class, or citizenship?
* Conduct secondary library research to find at least two articles or book chapters about your comic. See the research guide created by the librarian to assist you.
* Apply the concepts and theories from class and your secondary research to make an argument about how you interpret the impact of this comic/graphic narrative on audiences. Example of an argument:
  + “We can read the close relationship of early Batman and Robin as a queer one, by looking at the visual depiction of the characters as sleeping in the same bed.”
* **Undergraduates** will submit your analysis in the form of a 5-6 page written essay OR a slidedeck with 15-16 slides.
* **Graduate students** will submit your analysis in the form of a 8-10 page written essay OR a slidedeck with 20-22 slides, AND presenter notes.

# Possible Comic Series:

Old School

*Krazy Kat*

*Batman and Robin*

*Wonder Woman*

*The Uncanny X-Men*

New School Mainstream Comics

*All New X-Men*

*World of Wakanda*

*Anglea: Asgard’s Assassin*

Gay and Lesbian Groundbreakers

*Dykes to Watch Out For*

*Hothead Paisan: Homicidal Lesbian Maniac (contains strong language and violence)*

*Wimmin’s Comix (contains explicit images of sex)*

*Gay Comix (contains explicit images of sex)*

New School Indies

*Lumberjanes*

Graphic Narratives

*Juliet Takes a Breath* by Gabby Rivera and Celia Moscote

*Snapshots of a Girl* by Beldan Sezen

*My Lesbian Experience with Loneliness* by Nagata Kabi

*On a Sunbeam* by Tillie Walden

Webcomics from this list:

[https://yeshomo.net/tag/webcomic-reviews/](about:blank)

Choose from these online lists:

[*https://bookriot.com/best-queer-comics/*](about:blank)

[*https://bookriot.com/bisexual-comics/*](about:blank)

[*https://bookriot.com/sapphic-comics-and-graphic-novels/*](about:blank)

# Grading Criteria:

There are 30 possible points toward your final grade for this assignment. You will be assessed based on the following criteria:

1. Writing mechanics, clarity, and writing voice OR slide formation, visual/textual clarity, and style - 5 points
2. Appropriate selection of comic series and relevant secondary research – 5 points
3. Insightful application of course themes and concepts – 10 points
4. Depth and breadth of analysis and critical thinking – 10 points