

ENGL 1110: Literary Inquiry / Hybrid Genres

Winter Quarter, 2011

4.0 Credits

CRN 4088

T/Th: 10:00-11:50

Sturm Hall 335

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

What are literary genres and how do they change over time? How do we read innovative, new works that question or resist the status quo? This course involves interdisciplinary studies in literature, film, poetics, digital media, and contemporary culture. The class will investigate a series of inter-related topics—adaptation vs. translation; image/text; dialogue & heterogeneity; intertextuality & metafiction—that will inform close readings of and creative/critical responses to a selection of works from Shakespeare to Swensen.

Essay #1: Ekphrasis: Imagining Language

We will begin our study of hybrid genres by engaging with the topic of *Ekphrasis* (i.e. a verbal description of an image, or a visual depiction of a word or phrase).

Please read and engage with these sources:

- *Ekphrasis*, via Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ekphrasis>, or via another dictionary
- *The Wild Party* by Joseph Moncure March, illustrated by Art Spiegelman
- “Sweet Syncopation” (interview w/ Art Spiegelman from PLAZM)
- *AxeMan, Who Will Be 70 in the Year 2010*, by Howard Saunders, <http://reconfigurations.blogspot.com/2010/11/howard-saunders-who-is-axeman.html>

Choose two specific moments—one from *The Wild Party* and one from *AxeMan*—where you see something interesting happening in the relationship between image and text. How would you describe those relationships? How and why are those moments important to the whole story?

Incorporate evidence (i.e. direct quotation) from all of your sources and provide a works cited page (either MLA or Chicago style). This essay calls for a synthetic, contextual study.

Length: 1,000 words

Due: Thursday, January 6