

FRENCH 4338- Spring 2019
Pif! Crac! Boum! Introduction to *Bandes Dessinées*
Dr. Cynthia Laborde

TuTh 11:00AM - 12:20PM TH 202

Dr. Cynthia Laborde

Bureau: Hammond Hall 315

Heures de bureau: Mardi de 15h25 à 17h25 et sur rendez-vous.

Email: Cynthia.laborde@uta.edu

Mentis: <https://mentis.uta.edu/explore/profile/cynthia-laborde>

*For administrative purposes, this document is in English.
This class, however, will be taught entirely in French.*

Course Description

This course, we will explore the contemporary “Ninth Art”, the French comic books. We will read and analyze a variety of bandes dessinées, from classics such as Tintin (Hergé) and Astérix (Uderzo) to *Le Chat du Rabin* (Sfar), from fantasy works to autobiographical ones. We will see how Bandes Dessinées are an important form of popular cultural expression, but also how they participate in literary culture.

Sequential art is a transmedia experience that reflects cultural, social and historical conditions. Comic books develop in concert with, and participate in literary culture, while being a unique medium of communication. The combination of visual and textual language to communicate has a long history dating back to cave drawings.

Students will engage with key concepts in formal analysis and interpretation of *bande dessinée* through major works as well as excerpts of works from different French speaking countries. They will learn about the aesthetic principles that guide visual criticism, and be able to identify major historical developments in the medium’s evolution. They will also discuss key concepts such as immigration, war, national and personal identity, consumerism, and the environment that reflects cultural, social and historical.

Educational goals

The general goals of the course are to introduce students to a sample of French comics books and to foster familiarity with some key themes, styles and concerns, as well as to familiarize students with a range of different genres and to encourage reflection on the differences between them. Students will learn to analyze texts and images with appropriate terminology. Through discussion about personal and cultural identity, wars and consumerism, among other themes, students will acquire the tools to evaluate and re-evaluate these issues in their current culture, society and personal lives and therefore gain knowledge in Understanding of Cultural Diversity. Through a variety of writing assignments, class presentations, and in-class

discussion about French language comics and graphic novels, students will gain practice in communication and expression.

Textes

L'art Invisible, Scott McCloud

La Parenthèse, Elodie Durand

Deuxième génération, ce que je n'ai pas dit à mon père, Michel Kishka

All other readings will be available on blackboard as .pdf.

Supplemental resources (Also see section titled, “about online resources”)

Dictionary: A substantial bilingual and/or monolingual French dictionary-such as *Oxford/Hachette French Dictionary*, *Harper Collins Robert French Unabridged Dictionary*, or *Le Petit Robert*-is strongly recommended. There are also many online dictionaries, but be careful-many as do not give thorough explanations for the definition/translation provided.

Évaluations

Attendance, participation	20%
Homework	15%
3 Quizz	20%
2 comics (autobiographie, biographie, fantasie, ou humouristique)	15%
2 short essays papers (about 2 to 3 pages pages)	20%
1 présentation sur une BD française (10 to 15 minutes)	10%

Grading Policy

This is a content-oriented course in French in which all students –both native speakers of French and French as a second language speakers— are expected to retain information, and exercise their critical thinking skills in relation to assigned topics and texts. A student’s performance in this course is not predicated solely on their command of spoken or written French, as long as a certain minimum level of competency is present, and he or she is able to effectively comprehend and work with the course assignments and produce quality work.

Attendance Policy

I allow 5 absences, excused or unexcused, before taking 1% off your **final grade** for each additional absence. After 14 absences TOTAL (if you miss half of the semester), an automatic F is attributed. You are also responsible for turning in your homework in advance if you know that you are going to miss a class. Same goes for a test.

Preparation & Participation

As you should already know from taking other language courses, participating in class is essential. Being present is not enough, you have to be prepared (do the homework and more specifically for this class) and be active. You are required to attend each class, arrive on time, remain attentive, and participate in class discussions based on the assigned readings.

Students get a participation grade for each class.

For this class, students are asked for each reading to do a close reading of an image, a strip or a whole page. Be ready to discuss your analysis in class.

Cell phones / computers / tablets

You will be considered absent for the day if you use any kind of electronic device in class for personal purposes. Cell phone must at least be silenced, but preferable put on airplane mode.

*If you are expecting a very important phone call during class, please come talk to me BEFORE class.

About online resources

Online dictionaries, such as www.wordreference.com, are wonderful tools. However, **online translators, such as google translate, are strictly prohibited.** Looking up an entire sentence, part of a sentence or a phrase are considered an act of plagiarism and will result in you being brought before the Honor Court. Here is a humoristic video that shows how inaccurate these translators are: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bVAoVIFYf0> . Also, collaborating or receiving help to complete any assignment for the course is considered cheating and will be reported to the Honor Court as a violation of the Honor Code. If you use outside sources in your compositions or oral presentation, you will need to cite them otherwise it is considered plagiarism and a violation of the Honor Code. Please consult this website: <http://www.plagiarism.org> .

POLICY CONCERNING E-MAIL

In many ways, writing to a professor is no different from writing a business letter. Keep in mind that you are not texting with a friend or writing a casual message to an acquaintance -- this is a professional interaction with someone who is an expert in their field and in an official position to evaluate you and grade your work. Your emails should contain the proper parts of letter, convey respect and courtesy, and reflect the fact you are a serious student.

Begin your email by addressing your professor by title and name, and end your email with a closing and your signature. If your professor has a Ph.D, you should address them as "Professor LastName" or "Dr. LastName". Begin your email with a greeting addressing the professor politely, such as "Dear Professor Smith" or "Hi Dr. Jones". After your message, end with a closing and signature, such as "Best, YourName" or "Thanks, YourName".

Instructor will not reply to e-mails concerning information already available in course syllabus, other handouts, or course website (Blackboard). Instructor is not obliged to respond to e-mail which they deem unprofessional, disrespectful, or inappropriate.

To help you with approaching reading in a foreign language:

Do not wait until the last minute to read. It will be too much and you will get discouraged. Do not look for every single word you don't know in the dictionary, as long as you understand the general idea, keep reading.

Take notes while you are reading. Write down a few **important** vocabulary words that you have learned. Write down citations that you like or dislike. Use highlighters or post-its to indicate important passages.

To make Comics

Resources (Readers and software to create comics):

Catalogue numérique de BD du début du XX siècle.

<http://collections.citebd.org/in/faces/homeInBook.xhtml>

Free Comic Viewers- (You can read comics in iBooks for example)

- <http://chunkyreader.com>
- Comixology.com
- <https://lifehacker.com/5858906/five-best-desktop-comic-book-readers>
- <http://en.softonic.com/s/comic-viewer>
- ComicRack <http://comicrack.cyolito.com>
- Astonishing Comic Reader <http://lifehacker.com/the-best-comic-reader-app-for-android-511597116>

STDU is free for personal use (windows):

<http://www.stdutility.com/stdviewer.html>

Here is another one called Jibi (platform?):

<http://www.tothepc.com/archives/simple-comic-book-viewer-jibi/>

Comic Viewers (free or low cost) for mobile media

- Comic Reader Mobi
- Comic Zeal Review (and sync)
- Pull Lists
- Mycomics
- AVE (with a store with French BD)
- Iverse Comics
- ComiBoku

Comic Creators.

- Comic Book Creator Standard- http://download.cnet.com/Comic-Book-Creator-Standard/3000-6675_4-10461623.html (14 day free trial- 20\$ to purchase) PC
- Caricatures Pro
- Comic Life – This is the software that is loaded onto the Macs in the language lab (3rd floor Trimble) and they are available for you to use. Here is a link to a demonstration of how to use this program. It is intuitive and not difficult at all.
<http://www.macinstruct.com/node/69>
- Manga Studio

OTHER TOOLS

An online site to compose comics

- www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/comic/
- <https://www.canva.com/create/comic-strips/>
- <http://mashable.com/2010/10/24/create-your-own-comics/#bYUwfMiFd8q3>

Toondo- you need to register-more a cartoon strip site

- <http://www.toondoo.com/Login.toon?param=reg>

Ready made images with balloons.

- <http://www.comicstripgenerator.com/maker.asp>

Another site where you can create comic strips

- <http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/Comix/>

[For drawing challenged students: This has a stock of characters (you can choose the emotions) and balloons and colors. You can do all sorts of things with this. Email it to yourself then paste the pictures that you created into a template. I had fun playing around with this ☺]

Comic book pages templates:

- <http://www.hooverwebdesign.com/free-printables/comics/index.html>
- and here:
- <http://donnayoung.org/art/comics.htm>

There are lots of templates available via a Google search “comic book templates”

Cartoonize your pictures

- <https://www.befunky.com/features/photo-to-cartoon/>
- <http://www.cartoonize.net>
- <http://www.toonyphotos.com/rotolescope>

Or here is an article with a list of other sites

- <http://www.zdwired.com/online-convert-photos-in-to-cartoon-effects/>

Here is a list of these sorts of tools:

- <http://www.tothepc.com/archives/10-tools-to-create-play-share-comic-strips-online>

Also

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Disability Accommodations: UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a **letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially

documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting: **The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)** www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

Non-Discrimination Policy: *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.*

Title IX Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington ("University") is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.*

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Campus Carry: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail

approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students' anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: for semester-long courses, a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Students should be encouraged to subscribe to the MavAlert system that will send information in case of an emergency to their cell phones or email accounts. Anyone can subscribe at <https://mavalert.uta.edu/> or <https://mavalert.uta.edu/register.php>

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include [tutoring](#), [major-based learning centers](#), developmental education, [advising and mentoring](#), personal counseling, and [federally funded programs](#). For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

University Tutorial & Supplemental Instruction (Ransom Hall 205): UTSI offers a variety of academic support services for undergraduate students, including: 60 minute one-on-one [tutoring](#) sessions, [Start Strong](#) Freshman tutoring program, and [Supplemental Instruction](#). Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm. For more information visit www.uta.edu/utsi or call 817-272-2617.

The IDEAS Center (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **FREE** tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in, or check the schedule of available peer tutors at www.uta.edu/IDEAS, or call (817) 272-6593.

The English Writing Center (411LIBR): The Writing Center offers **FREE** tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at <https://uta.mywconline.com>. Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see www.uta.edu/owl for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library's 2nd floor Academic Plaza offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library's hours of operation. <http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>

Emergency Phone Numbers:In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381

(TENTATIVE) SCHEDULE

This syllabus is intended to give the student guidance in what may be covered during the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the professor reserves the right to modify, supplement and make changes as course needs arise.

Les bandes dessinées classiques

WEEK 1

Day 1 - 15 janvier

- Présentation du cours et des étudiants
- Présentation du vocabulaire de la bande dessinée
- Présentation de l'histoire de la BD

For next class : **Read Scott McCloud L'Art Invisible**

Day 2 - 17 janvier

- Discussion sur Scott McCloud
- Extraits de BDs franco-belges

WEEK 2 Reading of the week : **Tintin**

Day 1 - 22 janvier

Day 2 - 24 janvier

WEEK 3 Reading of the week : **Astérix**

Day 1 - 29 janvier

Day 2 - 31 janvier

L'humour

WEEK 4 Reading of the week : **Dossier sur les enfants (pour mardi)**
+ Ma vie est tout à fait fascinante (Bagieu)(pour jeudi)

Day 1 - 5 février

Day 2 - 7 Février **First comic due**

Les BDs engagées

WEEK 5 Reading of the week : **Culottées 1 (Bagieu)**

Day 1 - 12 février

Day 2 - 14 février **Quizz 1 + workshop : how to write an essay + brainstorming essay 1**

WEEK 6 Reading of the week : **Dossier sur l'engagement des auteurs**

Essay 1 meetings - Come with 1st draft

Day 1 - 19 février

Day 2 - 21 février

La Science Fiction

WEEK 7 Reading of the week : **Versailles ou le crépuscule du Roi**

Day 1 - 26 février

Day 2 - 28 février **Final draft essay 1 due**

Les bandes dessinées autobiographiques

WEEK 8 Reading of the week : Couleur de Peau, Miel (film)

Day 1 - 5 mars

Day 2 - 7 mars

12 mars - 14 mars : Spring Break - pas de classe !

WEEK 9 Reading of the week (for Tuesday and next Tuesday): La Parenthèse

Day 1 - 19 mars

Day 2 - 21 mars **Cultural Construction Conference - attend one or more panel for extra credit**

WEEK 10 Reading of the week (for Thursday) :

Deuxième génération, ce que je n'ai pas dit à mon père

Day 1 - 26 mars

Day 2 - 28 mars

March 29th : last day to drop

WEEK 11

Day 1 - 2 avril Deuxième génération, ce que je n'ai pas dit à mon père

Day 2 - 4 avril **Quizz 2 + workshop comic 2**

Francophonie

WEEK 12 Reading of the week : Je me souviens

Day 1 - 9 avril **Second comic due**

Day 2 - 11 avril

WEEK 13 Reading of the week : Aya (film)

Essay 2 meetings - Come with 1st draft

Day 1 - 16 avril

Day 2 - 18 avril

WEEK 14 Reading of the week : Le Chat du Rabin (film)

Day 1 - 23 avril

Day 2 - 25 avril **Final draft essay 2 due**

Digital comics

WEEK 15 Reading of the week : webcomics

Day 1 - 30 Avril **Quiz 3**

Day 2 - 2 May : reading of each other's comics (please come with revised versions of both your bande dessinées) + conclusions

May 3rd : last day of class

No final exam in this class