ESSARP Centre programme
Courses
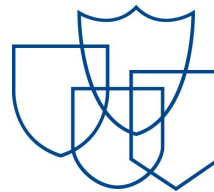
D954 - Webinar - How to analyze texts in the comic format: Visual Strategies and Styles

Dates: 02 & 16 August from 17:30 hs. to 19:00 hs. - 2024
Venue: Distance
Sessions: 2   **Minimum attendance for certificates:** 2   **Vacancies per school:** 5
For: Language, Humanities and Social Science teachers who would like to introduce the comic format as reading material in their lessons.

Please enrol before: **2024, Jul 30th**

Facilitator(s): *Martha Patricia De Cunto*

She holds a Master of Arts in Literary Linguistics from the University of Nottingham, UK and is currently doing a PhD in Literature at the University of Buenos Aires. She is also pursuing a Master's Degree in Cultural Studies at UNR. She has been a lecturer in American Literature, Children's Literature, YAL Literature and Introduction to Literary Studies at I.E.S. Lenguas Vivas "Juan Ramón Fernández". She has also taught Creative Writing at ISP "Joaquín V. González". She has been a teacher of Language and Literature in several schools in Buenos Aires for more than 30 years.

Objectives: Visuals are an effective way to teach not only language but also humanities and social sciences especially in the EFL classroom. Comic strips and graphic novels, a longer version of the comic book or "sequential art" (Eisner, 1985) , do not make use of images just as supplemental material but act as signifiers for meaning making. In this kind of format, pictures and words working in tandem pose a great cognitive challenge to students of all ages, and help them develop textual and visual reading abilities and critical thinking.

The main objective of this seminar is revisiting the language of comics through the analysis of extracts from graphic novels and comic strips for children, in advertisement and political journalism.The analysis of the visuals will make students become acquainted with the visual choices the cartoonists have made and their purposes. The webinar will eventually serve as a good guide for teachers to help students explore the dynamics of the comic format in their classroom practices.

The course will aim at identifying and evaluating both visual and textual features of the comic format. It will discuss McCloud's elements of comics: types of panels (sizes and forms) and their meaning; typography, use of images and colors, the position of drawings in the panels, emanata, gutters, the sequential transitions between the panels, the use of time and space, the layout or mise en page, the collaboration between words and pictures, splash, spread, bleed, bubbles, captions, shot and angles, among others.

Eisner, Will (1985). Comics & Sequential Art. Poorhouse Press. ISBN 978-0-9614-7281-8.

Contents: Terminology of comics. In the course of the webinar, the facilitator will provide the extracts from graphic novels and comic strips.

Bibliography:

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Cary, S. (2004). Going graphic: Comics at work in the multilingual classroom. Portsmouth: Heinemann.

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Cohn,N.(2013b). The Visual Language of Comics: Introduction to the Structure and Cognition of Sequential Images. London, UK: Bloomsbury.

De Cunto, M. (2015) "Trenzando viñetas: lecturas y análisis de cómics". En revista Lenguas V,ivas Volumen 11. pp 61 a 74. http://ieslvf.caba.infd.edu.ar/sitio/upload/Lenguas_11_web.pdf

Duncan, R and Smith, M. (2009) The Power of Comics. History, Form, and Culture. New York: The Continuum International Publishing Group Inc.

Eisner,W.(1996). Graphic Storytelling and Visual Narrative Tamarac: Poorhouse.

Gilmore, L. and Marshal, E. (2010) 'Girls in Crisis: Rescue and Transnational Feminist Autobiographical Resistance' in Feminist Studies, Vol. 36, No. 3, pp. 667-690. Feminist Studies, Inc. http://www.jstor.org/stable/27919128 .Accessed: 18/02/2015 12:17

Groensteen, Thierry (2009). The System of Comics. Jackson: UP of Mississippi.

Heffernan, J. (2006) Cultivating Picturacy Visual Art and Verbal Interventions. Waco, Texas: Baylor University Press.

McLaughlin, J. (ed.) (2005) Comics as Philosophy. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi.

McCloud, S.(1994)Understanding Comics. Harper Perennial.
-------------(2006). Making Comics. Harper. ISBN 978-0-06-078094-4.

Saraceni, M. (2003) The Language of Comics. London: Routledge.

Methodology: The facilitator will introduce terminology by giving examples from comic texts. She will show the possible effect of the visual choices the writer/illustrators have made to create a certain effect on the readers. Participants will be required to work on extracts and comic strips to explore some of the comic terms and their uses.