

**FRANKLIN INSTITUTE-UNIVERSITY OF ALCALÁ**  
**MEMORY AND IDENTITIES IN HISPANIC COMICS**  
**SPAN 575**

**INSTRUCTOR 'S NAME and E-MAIL:** Dr. Francisco Sáez de Adana Herrero, [kiko.saez@uah.es](mailto:kiko.saez@uah.es)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will focus on the intersection between memory, identity and politics in Hispanic comics. Thus, the concepts of historical memory, collective memory, political memory or postmemory will be studied, what dialogue they establish with comics and how they have evolved over the decades in Spain and in different Latin American countries. The course will also focus on the way the concept of identity is constructed in terms of nation, gender, ethnicity, and class in Hispanic comics.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- Demonstrate an advanced ability to analyse Hispanic comics and visual culture and present the results orally and in writing.
- Locate Hispanic comics and texts critically in their historical, cultural, and institutional contexts.
- With some guidance from the lecturer, evaluate and apply a range of critical approaches to the material covered.
- Use a range of critical terminology, applying it to independently researched material as well as to material introduced by the lecturer.
- Conduct independent study, including the preparation of material for group discussion, developed through seminars.
- Using bibliographical material provided, select, plan and carry out a programme of study leading to an essay on a chosen topic, to a specified length and deadline.

**DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES:**

Test	20%
Class Participation	10%
Oral Presentation	20%
Detailed Outline	10%
Final essay	40%

There is no final examination

**GRADING SCALE:**

A+ = 100-96    A = 95-91    A- = 90-86    B+ = 85-81    B = 80-76    B- = 75-71  
C+ = 70-67    C = 66- 62    C- = 61-58    D+ = 57-54    D = 53-50    F = 49%

**RECOMMENDED READINGS:**

- Altarriba, A. (coord.) (2011). ARBOR, Vol. 187, No Extra 2. La historieta española, 1857-2010. Historia, sociología y estética de la narrativa gráfica en España. <http://arbor.revistas.csic.es/index.php/arbor/issue/view/104/showToc>
- Amago, S. & Marr, M. (2019). Consequential Art: Comics Culture in Contemporary Spain. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Catalá Carrasco, J., Drinot, P., Scorer, J. (2019). Cómics y memoria en América Latina. Madrid: Cátedra.
- Cosse, I. (2016). Mafalda: Historia social y política. Buenos Aires: Fondo de Cultura Económica.
- del Rey Cabero, E. (2019). "Comics Do Not Forget Historical Memory and Experiences of Violence in the Spanish Civil War and Early Francoism", in Contexts of Violences, eds. I.Hague. I.Norton and Nina Mickwitz. London: Routledge.
- González Hermosilla, A.L. (2013). El binomio identidad y cultura presentes en la historieta chilena Condorito. Aproximaciones conceptuales y análisis histórico social en la realidad nacional. Perspectivas de la Comunicación, Vol. 6, n. 2.
- Merino, A. (2003). El cómic hispánico. Madrid: Cátedra.
- Montes Garcés, E. (2018). Sentido de lugar y género en Condorito y Mafalda. Revista Canadiense de Estudios Hispánicos, Vol. 43, n. 1.
- Touton, I., Alonso Carballés, J., Sanz-Gavillon, A., y Jareño Gila, C. (2021). Trazos de memoria, trazos de

#### CLASS ATTENDANCE

To derive the utmost benefit from class instruction, attendance is essential. Attending class is extremely beneficial since it allows students to interact and participate in class discussions. The instructor should be informed of any reason for a prolonged absence. A student who is absent from a test for legitimate reasons must discuss an alternative course of action with the instructor. The instructor at his or her own discretion may transfer the percentage weight for a test to another test. The instructor will either make this decision on the basis of verbal information provided by the student or will request a Physician/Counselor statement form. Missed tests and assignments with no legitimate reason will be given a grade of F. The instructor will not prepare make-up tests or assignments.

#### CLASS ETIQUETE:

##### A. CLASS PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to read the articles or book chapters assigned on the class schedule. Class participation marks are assigned based on the level of preparedness students have in class.

##### B. TEST

The test is a comprehensive evaluation of the material discussed in class. The test includes a section on identification of quotes taken from the theoretical articles assigned in the course, analysis of images taken from comics, and essay questions.

##### C. ORAL PRESENTATION

Students must select a Hispanic comic from the 20th or 21st centuries different from those studied in the course to present to their classmates. The work can be Spanish or Latin American. The presentation will last 20 minutes. A summary of no more than two pages to give to classmates or a PowerPoint presentation should be prepared. The summary or PowerPoint presentation should include the following aspects: brief synopsis of the biography of the writer, essayist, director (5 lines), summary of the themes of the book, analysis of the text (thesis expressed in one sentence, important ideas and conclusion), bibliography on the work of the writer, essayist, director. The comic selected for the oral presentation is the same on which the your final paper will be written.

##### D. FINAL ESSAY

Write an essay of 8 to 10 pages analyzing the selected comic different from those analyzed in class but corresponding to the subject studied. The first version of the paper will be worth 15% of the grade and the final, more extended version will be worth the remaining 25%. The final version of the paper should consist of 15-20 pages.

10% of the percentage of this item will be given to the presentation of an initial outline of the paper including: the thesis, the theoretical approach, the important ideas to be developed, the conclusion, a bibliography of at least 5 different sources (only 2 can be from the internet) and a summary of the proposed analysis ("abstract"). The written papers will be evaluated considering the following criteria: the structure of thought, the originality of the argument, the application of theory, the writing and the way in which the student uses the methods of presentation of written papers following the MLA format.