

Veranstalter	Prof. Dr. Astrid Böger
Thema	Auto(bio)graphics: Recent American Graphic Narratives [AA- V4a/b, ENG-13, AA-M5, AA-M14, AA-M15, AA-M16, AA-W]
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-572
Zeit	2st. Do 12-14
Raum	Phil 1219
Beginn	5.4.2012

Course Description:

Ever since Art Spiegelman's graphic novel *Maus* appeared in the late 1980s, more and more readers and critics have embraced graphic novels as a serious form of literature. In recent years, an increasing number of autobiographical works have been published, prompting Gillian Whitlock to coin the phrase 'autographics' for this emerging sub-genre of the graphic novel. In this course, we will study a broad selection of works starting with Will Eisner's *Life on Dropsie Avenue* (1995) and including, among others, Linda Barry's *One! Hundred! Demons!* (2002), Craig Thompson's *Blankets* (2003), Harvey Pekar's *The Quitter* (2005), and Line Hoven's *Liebe schaut weg* (2008; to be published in English this summer by Blank Slate Books under the title *Love looks away*). Throughout, we will focus on the capacity of graphic life writing to render real-life experiences in innovative ways, by combining images and writing into a coherent narrative. We will further critically discuss notions of authenticity raised by all of these works in different ways. In brief, can a work of fiction – graphic literature, no less – serve as an adequate medium of personal witnessing and coping with trauma? And, conversely, in what ways and toward which ends does graphic life writing complicate facile notions of personal truth and its recording? More simply put, we will use this seminar to get a clearer sense of the special aesthetic attractions – but also the real limitations – of auto(bio)graphic life writing as an emerging and highly popular genre in the context of contemporary global culture.

!!! Please note that we will take advantage of the special program on graphic novels at the Literaturhaus Hamburg scheduled for April 2012, likely involving a group excursion to attend one of the events. We will also have a discussion (in class) with a young graphic novelist who has agreed to discuss her work with us.

Course Requirements:

Regular attendance and participation as well as thorough preparation of reading materials are essential. Some texts will be made available via AGORA, in addition, students will be required to buy the works by Barry, Thompson, Pekar, and Hoven mentioned above. In order to receive full course credit, students will be expected to give an in-class presentation and write a final term-paper.

Preparatory Reading (optional):

Hillary L. Chute, *Graphic Women. Life Narrative and Contemporary Comics*. New York: Columbia UP, 2010.

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	Mo 16-17 und nach Vereinbarung
Sprechstunden während der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:	Termine werden noch bekannt gegeben