

Veranstalter	Prof. Dr. Astrid Böger
Thema	Drawing (on) Reality: Documentary Comics [ENG-7, ENG-7a, ENG-13, AA7, AA11, LAA10, LAA13, AA-MA01, AA-MA02, AA-MA05]
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-564
Zeit	Mi 10-12
Raum	Ü35 - 01016
Beginn	16.10.19

Course Description:

Ever since Art Spiegelman published the semi-autobiographical memoir *Maus* about his father's survival of the holocaust in 1980, comics has evolved into an important medium capable of representing reality in ways arguably unparalleled in any other form. Indeed, it seems that one of the particular strengths of comics is its very capacity to render highly complex realities both truthfully and creatively. In this seminar, we will study a selection of recent works that some scholars have termed 'documentary comics' and which deal with some of the worst disasters afflicting humankind today such as poverty, war, terrorism, and natural catastrophes in turn causing mass migrations across the globe. These include (but are not limited to) Joe Sacco's *Safe Area Goražde* (2000), Art Spiegelman's *In the Shadow of No Towers* (2004), Josh Neufeld's *A.D. New Orleans after the Deluge* (2009), and Sarah Glidden's *Rolling Blackouts* (2016).

The aims of this seminar include the study of comics as a new and important visual medium in its own right; the focus on comics whose explicit purpose is to expose disastrous events so as immerse readers in some of harshest realities of today's world that often receive (too) little notice in other media; and finally, to enable students to place such comics in their respective cultural and media contexts.

Recommended Reading:

1. Nina Mickwitz, *Documentary Comics: Graphic Truth-Telling in a Skeptical Age* (2016)
2. Hillary L. Chute, *Disaster Drawn: Visual Witness, Comics, and Documentary Form* (2016)
3. Karin Kukkonen, *Studying Comics and Graphic Novels* (2013)

Course Requirements:

Regular attendance and active participation, excellent knowledge of primary and secondary texts, completion of short written assignments and/or in-class presentations, as well as a term paper of ca. 15 p. to be completed by the end of the semester.

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit	Di 16-17 Uhr und nach Vereinbarung per E-Mail
Sprechstunden während der vorlesungsfreien Zeit	Genauere Termine werden noch bekannt gegeben (s. Aushang und Instituts-Webseite)