

**Periodic Report**  
**ENG 4414: The Auto-graphic Novel**  
**Autumn 2015**

1. Pensum: I kept the pensum the same as the last time I taught the course (in 2012); as usual the primary and secondary texts worked well. I made a special effort to integrate secondary reading material into the group discussions so that the students learned to use terminology specific to comics studies. Overall this was successful, also evidenced by the students' use of this material in their research papers.
2. Teaching: This was a typical seminar structure. I would sometimes hold short lectures (especially at the beginning the semester) but most of the class time was based on discussion. I would insert small "lectures" within the discussion as well, to lead the discussion in an academic manner. In the past, I had students give class presentations, but this semester I instead asked the students to come to each seminar having chosen a panel or sequence of their choice from the week's reading, and to be prepared to discuss that. This worked very well and the students always had something prepared to say; this also helped carry the discussions.
3. We were able to cover all texts and themes in the course; student participation was good; in general I felt this was a successful class, which is also supported by the student evaluations (although only 7 out of 11 answered.) All students who answered were satisfied with the teaching of the course and felt supported in their work, as I required the students to hand in a draft of their papers.
4. The students wrote on "oppgave" on a subject of their choice, based on the course material and developed first through handing in a project description followed by a draft which I commented on. I found the papers for this course to be of high quality and relevant to the course topic. In fact, as a group, I found the papers to be of the highest quality altogether in comparison to the two other times I have taught this seminar.
5. In general I would teach the course in the same manner again. I have received a lot of personal feedback from the students, which has been very positive, as well as a couple of students interested in writing their MA thesis on a graphic novel / comics topic. The evaluation as well shows high student satisfaction, so any changes I would make would be minimal, perhaps changing some of the readings, or coming up with new methods for developing student participation.
6. The only problem was the room – one of the seminar rooms in Georg Morgenstjernes hus: it was stuffy and dry and made everyone tired!