

FR363-15 Reframing history: French popular revolt in the graphic novel

26/27

Department

School of Modern Languages and Cultures

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Margaux Whiskin

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module will introduce you to contemporary French graphic novels through a historical lens. We will examine how this popular genre par excellence retells the story of popular revolts. In the course of the module, you will be working on the following texts:

- The award-winning *Liberté* (2019) by Florent Grouazel and Younn Locard on the first days of the French Revolution
 - *Ceux qui n'étaient rien* (2019) by Raphaël Meyssan on the 1871 Paris Commune
 - *Mai 68 : La veille du grand soir* (2018) by Patrick Rotman and Sébastien Vassant on the insurrection of May 68
 - *Mon rond-point dans ta gueule* (2021) by Sandrine Kerion on the gilets jaunes movement
- Through the carefully crafted interplay between text and image, we will look at how these four graphic novels give voice and visibility to those whom society left in the margins.

Module aims

(i) to introduce students to contemporary French graphic novels through the angle of key historical events and to give them the methodological tools to approach the genre critically; (ii) to explore the

tension between reality and fiction in historical retellings, and the manifestation of this tension in the intertextual relations the graphic novels entertain with primary sources, both textual and visual; (iii) to examine the depiction of the people/the state as a collective and abstract entity and of the individuals who belong to it, and how encounters between the two are represented, in particular through violence.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Week 1: Introduction to the French graphic novel

Week 2 and 3: analysis of the graphic novel *Liberté* (2019) by Florent Grouazel and Younn Locard

Week 4 and 5: analysis of the graphic novel *Ceux qui n'étaient rien* (2019) by Raphaël Meyssan

Week 6: reading week

Week 7 and 8: analysis of the graphic novel *Mai 68 : La veille du grand soir* (2018) by Patrick Rotman and Sébastien Vassant

Week 9 and 10: analysis of the graphic novel *Mon rond-point dans ta gueule* (2021) by Sandrine Kerion

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a refined understanding of the graphic novel as a genre, and of the impact of its advantages and constraints in shaping a narrative
- Demonstrate familiarity with the historical events depicted in the graphic novels set for study, and a keen ability to analyse these depictions critically.
- Demonstrate the capacity to think comparatively by identifying similarities and differences between the graphic novels and the sources they themselves use.
- Demonstrate accomplishment in accessing, reading and critically analysing primary and secondary source materials in the target language.
- Demonstrate requisite academic and organisational skills in managing and delivering an essay .
- Cultural competency will be acquired alongside enhanced linguistic competency in French

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

International

All modules delivered in SMLC are necessarily international. Students engage with themes and ideas from a culture other than that of the UK and employ their linguistic skills in the analysis of primary materials from a non-Anglophone context. Students will also engage with theoretical and critical frameworks from across the world.

The focus on language, intercultural and research skills will equip students to better understand, communicate, and build effective relationships with those from different cultural backgrounds.

Subject specific skills

Taught in French and using French sources, this module will develop students' linguistic skills. It will build students' capacity to engage with aspects of French culture through analysis of the primary material and through seminar discussion aimed at deeper critical thinking.

Transferable skills

All SMLC culture modules demand critical and analytical engagement with artefacts from target-language cultures. In the course of independent study, class work and assessment students will develop the following skills: written and oral communication, creative and critical thinking, problem solving and analysis, time management and organisation, independent research in both English and their target language(s), intercultural understanding and the ability to mediate between languages and cultures, ICT literacy in both English and the target language(s), personal responsibility and the exercise of initiative.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Private study	132 hours (88%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Reading primary sources and engaging with research and critical scholarship.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Comparative essay	90%		Yes (extension)
Students will write an essay of 3000-3250 words in length (excluding footnotes and bibliography) on one of the proposed topics and comparing at least two of the set primary sources. They may also choose their own topic in consultation with the module tutors. Depending on language level, the essay can either be written in English or French.			
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Class participation	10%		No
Students will be encouraged and are expected to actively participate in class discussions by asking questions, volunteering an answer and responding to other students' contributions or questions. The aim of assessing class participation is to encourage students to share their ideas and knowledge with the group, and to motivate students to engage with background reading, homework and preparation for each learning session. In addition to assessing students' disciplinary knowledge and understanding, assessing class participation will also be used to encourage and reward development of communication skills and group skills such as interacting and cooperating.			
Reassessment component			
Forum posts			No
Students who have missed three or more learning sessions will be asked to submit two written forum posts (each 200-300 words long) which should take the form of responses to the classwork and set texts			

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in the course of the module in a number of ways. Feedback should be understood to be both formal and informal and is not restricted to feedback on formal written work. Oral feedback will be provided by the module tutor in the course of seminar discussion. This may include feedback on points raised in small group work or in the course of individual presentations or larger group discussion.

Written feedback will be provided on formal assessment using the standard SMLC Assessed Work feedback form appropriate to the assessment. Feedback is intended to enable continuous improvement throughout the module and written feedback is generally the final stage of this feedback process. Feedback will always demonstrate areas of success and areas for future development, which can be applied to future assessment. Feedback will be both discipline-specific and focused on key transferrable skills, enabling students to apply this feedback to their future professional lives. Feedback will be fair and reasonable and will be linked to the SMLC marking scheme appropriate to the module.

Availability

Pre-requisites

French proficiency of at least B1 level.

Courses

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 4 of UPOA-M163 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and French