

ENGLISH 254, Themes in Literature Spring 2023



“Madness” and Disability in American Literature

Bess Cooley Section 002, MWF 10:20-11:10, CRN# 41479

Course Description: This course will address the history of the genre and how it has changed since its first inception. We will review early examples then move on to explore full texts such as *Persepolis*, *Fun Home*, *Blankets*, and *Hyperbole and a Half*. In addition to studying these memoirs, we will review criticism and explore the full parameters of the genre in that memoirs can be humorous (in the case of Allie Brosh’s *Hyperbole and a Half*), philosophical (as in the case of Allison Bechdel’s *Fun Home*), or be a historical narrative (as in the case of Marjane Satrapi’s *Persepolis*). In addition to studying a variety of graphic memoirs throughout the course, students will also read a graphic memoir of their choice (from an approved list) for their final exam project. Assignments include a series of discussion posts, close readings, two major papers, and a take-home final exam.

All sections of English 254 satisfy UT’s General Education requirements in both Arts & Humanities (AH) and Communicating through Writing (WC).