Course Specification MA Graphic Novel

1. General information

Course Title	MA Graphic Novel
Awarding University	Leeds Arts University
University at which course is delivered	Leeds Arts University
Relevant QAA benchmark(s)	UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Master's Degree Characteristics (2020)
Date of most recent review	N/A
Date of next review	2023-24

Awards	Credits	Duration	Mode of study
MA Graphic Novel	180 (90 ECT)	1 year 2 years	Full time Part time
PGDip in Graphic Novel*	120		Full time Part time
PGCert in Graphic Novel*	60		Full time Part time
*Exit Award only			

2. Course Aims

This course aims to:

- Establish diverse and experimental approaches to the practical and theoretical nature of sequential storytelling.
- Embed a systematic and conceptual understanding of sequential storytelling.
- Develop an awareness of current problems and/or new insights regarding methods informed by practical, theoretical and conceptual research.
- Develop a comprehensive understanding of techniques appropriate to building a world for your story and engaging your audience.
- Promote socially, culturally, and globally aware narrative-led practices.
- Explore ethical, sustainable, and independent approaches to sequential storytelling practice in production and representation.
- Encourage collaborative practice and interdisciplinary approaches to research and practice.
- Demonstrate advanced specialist skills in sequential art design and related disciplines.
- Enable self-directed, original, and autonomous approaches to planning, problem-solving, and the production of a graphic novel at a professional level.
- Promote systematic and creative resolutions to complex sequential narrative-led design problems and encourage dissemination to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Advance graphic novels as a powerful form of global sociopolitical self-expression and challenge what a graphic novel can, should, or could be.
- Further develop transferable skills enabling the progression to individual professional practice within the creative industries, education, third sector, or PhD study.

3. Distinctive Features of the Course

This course provides the framework and critical discourse for you to develop, create, and publish a graphic novel over the course of study.

You will research and develop sequential narrative methods, art direction techniques, and graphic novel publishing and immersive technologies. Engaging with the breadth and depth of what a sequential narrative could be, you will critically examine and contextualise your work in relation to emerging social, political, cultural, and ethical issues. You will work individually and collaboratively to produce a graphic novel that questions the role of the comic artist, audience, distribution and immersive media.

You will be encouraged to critically evaluate current advanced scholarship within sequential art, comics, and graphic novels in a diverse range of formats. Approaches to sequential storytelling will be evaluated, facilitating dynamic critique and development of potential novel methods.

You will be encouraged to investigate methods of developing and visualising the narrative in original ways. You will explore character-driven, plot-driven, and setting-driven graphic novels. There may be opportunity for cross-disciplinary influences from literature to inform and resolve the graphic novel structure.

You will investigate practical techniques to create original character and environment designs that interpret and challenge ethical and global themes, exploring graphic novels as a forum for social change.

You will have the opportunity to demonstrate advanced knowledge, understanding, and high-level practical skills. Exercising initiative and personal responsibility, the project will facilitate complex decision-making and the independent learning required for continuing professional development.

You will be supported by a team with diverse research and practical interests within sequential narrative, comic art, and graphic novel culture, working closely with visiting industry professionals. You will challenge what a graphic novel can be, working collaboratively with writers, artists, publishers and readers – the aim is to create externally-engaged, progressive, inclusive, and immersive graphic novels for a diverse and growing readership.

4. Course Structure

4a. Module Framework

Level 7	Credit points	ECTS	Learning hours
LAUMAGN701 – Sequential Storytelling	30	15	300
LAUMAGN702 – Research for Professional Context	30	15	300
LAUMAGN703 – Art Direction and Message	30	15	300
LAUMAGN704 – Contextualising your Practice	30	15	300
LAUMAGN705 – Voice and Readership	60	30	600

4b. Course Map / Structure

Full Time Mode			
LAUMAGN701 Sequential Storytelling (30 Credits)	LAUMAGN703 Art Direction and Message (30 Credits)	LAUMAGN705 Voice and Readership (60 Credits)	180 Credits
LAUMAGN702 Research for Professional Context (30 Credits)	LAUMAGN704 Contextualising your Practice (30 Credits)		

Part Time Mode			
Year 1	LAUMAGN701 Sequential Storytelling (30 Credits)	LAUMAGN704 Contextualising your Practice (30 Credits)	90 Credits
	LAUMAGN702 Research for Professional Context (30 Credits)		
Year 2	LAUMAGN703 Art Direction and Message (30 Credits)	LAUMAGN705 Voice and Readership (60 Credits)	90 Credits

5. Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the following learning outcomes, you will be eligible for the award of MA Graphic Novel.

Category		Module
Experimentation and Resolution		
7A1	Deal with complex issues systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete information, and communicate your creative conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.	705 Voice and Readership
7A2	Demonstrate the application of a comprehensive range of material techniques and processes appropriate to your creative arts discipline and practice.	703 Art Direction and Message
7A3	Deploy a sophisticated approach to the recording and presentation of information from a range of relevant sources.	701 Sequential Storytelling
Project Management		
7B1	Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and resolving creative arts challenges, and act autonomously in planning and implementing your practice at a professional or equivalent level.	705 Voice and Readership
7B2	Demonstrate initiative, independence and professionalism in managing workloads, meeting	701 Sequential Storytelling 703 Art Direction and Message

	deadlines and setting realistic goals and schedules.	
7B3	The ability to act autonomously in the application of relevant critical perspectives as a means of analysis in the planning for, and execution of, resolved verbal and/or written work.	702 Research for Professional Context
7B4	The management of own learning and the self-directed identification of appropriate sources of information.	704 Contextualising Your Practice
Research		
7C1	Evidence a comprehensive understanding of the techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship within their practice or discipline.	701 Sequential Storytelling
7C2	Analyse, evaluate and reflect on your personal practice through appropriate methods of research and reflection that allow for critique and development of that practice.	703 Art Direction and Message
7C3	A critically informed understanding of the value and role of subject specialist contact and discussion in ideas generation that is relevant to recent advances in the chosen field of study.	705 Voice and Readership
7C4	Research skills and research activity (e.g. action research and reflective practice) leading to sophisticated verbal presentations and written work/presentation that informs practice.	702 Research for Professional Context
7C5	Research methods and their appropriate application to the production of resolved work.	704 Contextualising Your Practice
Evaluation and Critical Analysis		
7D1	Demonstrate a systematic knowledge, understanding and critical awareness of contemporary debates within their discipline and professional practice, much of which is at or informed by the forefront of the field.	705 Voice and Readership
7D2	Demonstrate a critical understanding of appropriate areas of your discipline and practice and locate them within the creative industries and cultural environment both nationally and internationally.	703 Art Direction and Message
7D3	The ability to summarise, document, report on, and reflect meaningfully upon one's own practice-based research.	702 Research for Professional Context
7D4	The evaluation of self-directed research.	701 Sequential Storytelling
7D5	The complex relationships between theoretical understanding, critical analysis and practice.	704 Contextualising Your Practice
Subject Knowledge		
7E1	Demonstrate originality in applying knowledge to your specialist practice, together with a deep understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and	705 Voice and Readership

	interpret and creatively articulate/promote/perform that knowledge.	
7E2	The continuing advancement and development of your specialist knowledge and understanding.	701 Sequential Storytelling 703 Art Direction and Message
7E3	A critically informed understanding of the diverse policies and activities of organisations supporting and promoting the creative industries in local, national, intercultural and global contexts.	702 Research for Professional Context
7E4	A systematic understanding of theoretical perspectives that relate to complex issues.	702 Research for Professional Context
7E5	An in-depth and systematic understanding of current theoretical perspectives that relate to specific creative specialist practice.	704 Contextualising Your Practice

6. Learning and Teaching Strategies

Throughout your course of study, the following methods of learning and teaching may be employed both online and in-person (blended). The Module Specifications detail the particular learning and teaching strategy appropriate to the module and content.

- Negotiated assignment submissions that are generated from your research interests. You will initiate investigations and sustain the development of a project supported by staff.
- Peer group support and, where appropriate, collaborative practice fostered through structured student-initiated encounters with theoretical material and primary sources which can be applied to generate concepts that are explored through discussion leading to individual creative practice.
- One-to-one tutorial support during which, you will develop negotiated assignment activities with tutors focusing upon practice development and/or career planning through the evaluation and critical analysis of your own work.
- Opportunities for considered, exploratory and pro-active links with external contexts and communities of practice that lead to original integrated, resolved, conceptual visual/object-based/oral/aural/written work with relevance to the market(s) and/or audiences you have identified and investigated.