

Class connects comics and lit

Jess Sheppard
Culture Editor

"You don't take it too easily we can kinda do any-," said English Instructor Jess Sheppard of the Comics and Literature class. The class is offered in the Games and Literature, and like its counter- comics class brings the les-

sions of literature through the use of less conventional mediums. One of which is a unique textbook by Scott McCloud called, "Understanding Comics."

"Right now the course is essentially a comparative media class," said Dodge, "where we talk up front about defining what comics are with McCloud's book and then use some of his ideas to move the

conversation."

After reading the assigned text, films that relate to the reading are watched and the discussion takes off from there. The assigned texts themselves are many and varied, including well-known works such as "300" and "Watchmen" to Marjane Satrapi's "Persepolis" and Robert Kirkman's zombie comic, "The Walking Dead."

"All of these texts have

arguments at some level that they want to put out into culture and have us talk about," said Dodge of his selection of material.

Following the reading of "The Walking Dead," Dodge assigned zombie movie such as, "28 Days Later" and George Romero's "Dawn of the Dead" to fuel the class' discussion.

"Everyone who's seen a

George Romero movie knows that the zombies are metaphors for something else," said Dodge.

But there's a danger in any class of this kind.

"It's not enough to come to one of these classes and just say, 'Oh I really like comics!'" said Dodge. "There's gotta be more to say than, 'Batman's cool!' Of course Batman is cool. What else do you want to say about him?"

According to Dodge, the key is capturing the energy that students bring and that is one of the aspects of the class he enjoys.

"We end up having peripheral discussions about contemporary culture," said Dodge proudly.

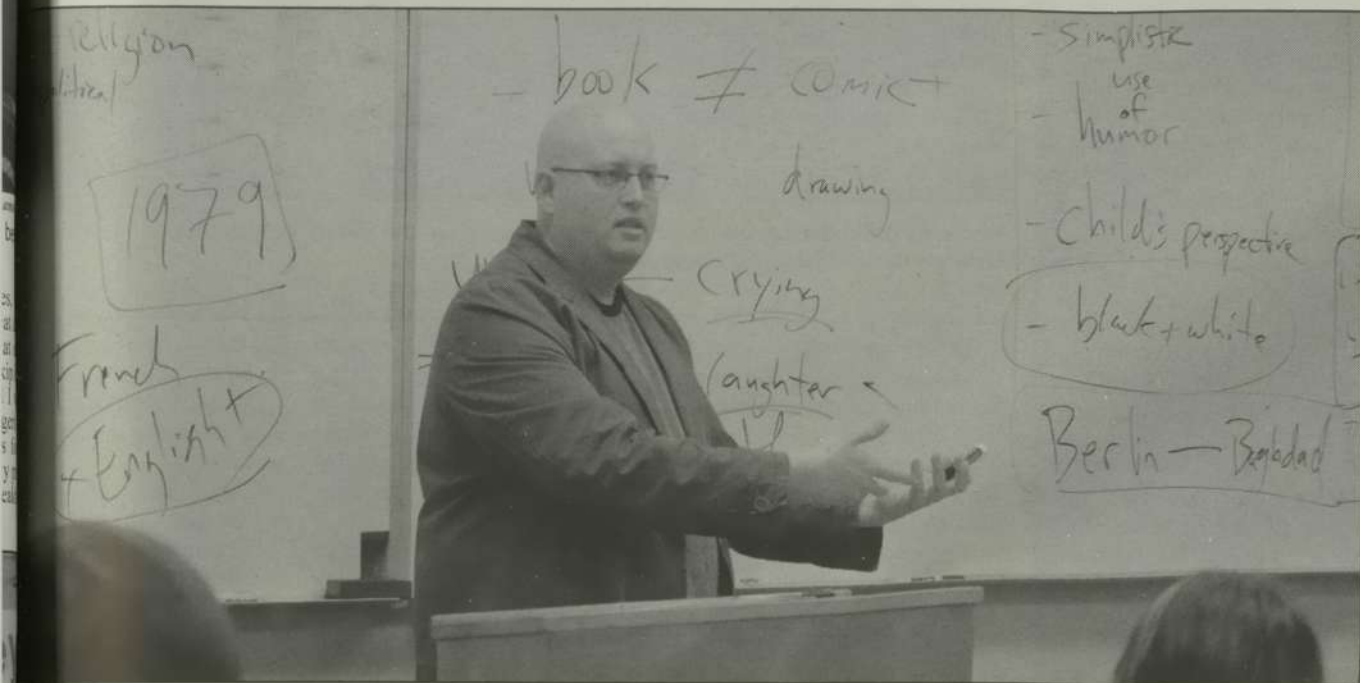
His students share his enthusiasm for comics.

"Ever since I was a kid I was a huge comic nerd," said student Bud Rodriguez. "Comics make me feel like a kid again."

Another student has just as much zeal for the style of Dodge's teaching as for the class and the subject matter.

"I really like his teaching style. It's fun and instead of just reading he actually makes you analyze things," said student Grace Wikander. "It makes you appreciate it more."

It may be too late to take Comics and Lit this term but there's always next winter as well as the Games and Lit class offered in the spring.



Jess Sheppard Clackamas Print

During an animated discussion of Marjane Satrapi's "Persepolis" Dodge incorporates cultural differences, language, and history of the ancient Persian Empire into the analysis of the comic.

Literary review provides outlet for student writing

Michelle Sanchez
Clackamas Print

Every year, students at Clackamas have an opportunity to participate in a writing contest to have their work published in the CLR, or Clackamas Literary Review. This year however, the contest was almost a "no show" on the calendar of events here at Clackamas.

"The review has been going on for 12 years now," said Kate Gray, the English Department Chair and a former managing editor of the publication. "It has won several awards and is known worldwide."

The student produced publication receives hundreds of

entries from all over the world every year. The pieces are reviewed by the students in the WR 246 class and in turn proceed into the CLR. A student contest is held for Clackamas students, the prize being the honor of being published with other authors from all over the world.

However, like previous years, the WR 246 class was offered in the fall term instead of the winter term, which was held by Ryan Davis, the edi-

tor to put the contest on hiatus for the 2008-2009 school year. Davis said that with the course not being offered this term, "There are very few students working on the journal in winter, when they are needed the most."

However, Davis changed his mind stating, "I realized though, that would be a disservice to the fine writers we have here, who dedicate themselves to their craft and deserve recognition in print. So, the contest is on!"

If students try to look up information on the contest, they should be aware that the information on the Internet has not, as of yet, been updated with the new due date and contest information.

Students who are interested in participating need to send in hard copies to Davis, at the Clackamas address. The new deadline for the contest is March 1, 2009. However, sending entries in earlier would be advantageous, due to the lack of staffing. The three categories for entries are poetry, fiction and creative

nonfiction.

All submissions that students will want responses to must be sent in with self-

addressed stamped envelopes. There is also a limitation of four poems, one story, or one essay per submission. Poetry and prose submissions should be sent in separately. Students should also submit all work typed and on a letter quality printer.

The editors of the publication will try to have responses back to the students within four months of the submissions. More information can be found on the website at www.clackamasliteraryreview.org

Categories for entry:
Fiction, Poetry, Essay

Deadline extended to March 1

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Kate Gray
English Department
Chair



Jessica Foster Clackamas Print

The Clackamas Literary Review has a long history of excellence and awards spanning back 12 years. Editor Ryan Davis has extended the deadline for submissions to March 1.