

Cartooning 1 Syllabus, Fall 2017

Dearest doodlers, cartoonists and Vikings – lend me your ears. In electing to join our merry band of comic creators, you are committing yourself to some high expectations. You may in turn expect certain things of me and the class. The following outlines what this class requires and what you will learn from it. Save this, as it will help you stay on track.

Class Purpose: to further your capacity to create and appreciate art, storytelling, and communication through the medium of graphic narrative.

Learning: In complete two billion percent alignment with the Essential Academic Learning Requirements of mad scientists, artists, comics rockstars and Washington State (<http://www.k12.wa.us/Arts/Standards/pubdocs/VisualArtsStandards.pdf>), you lucky people will learn the following:

- How to draw cartoon characters and perspective scenes.
- How to use thumbnail sketches to generate and refine ideas quickly.
- How to use the elements of art/principles of design to help create compelling work.
- How to create clear visual narratives using single and multiple panels combined with words.
- How to use various drawing media.
- How to thoughtfully discuss aesthetic and technical aspects of comics and cartooning.
- How to use observations, critical thinking and reflection to improve your work.
- A taste of different comics types and the work of comic artists past and present.
- Something about publishing, promoting and selling your work.

Requirements for success:

- **Respect** – for each other and our work, and for tools, classroom, and time we share.
- **Use every minute of class time.** The percent of class time you pay attention and purposefully work on art predicts your grade. There is no final - you cannot cram at the last minute for art.
- **Pay attention.** Pull your head out of your phone and watch; listen. It will make your life way easier.
- **If you need help, ask for it.** Keep on asking until you get it.
- **Do the homework.** It will make you full of awesome.
- **“Everyone needs deadlines”** – Walt Disney.

If you miss a deadline due to absence, check with me upon your return to discuss a reasonable timeframe for submitting your work. Some deadlines you must meet even if you are or have been absent, no matter what – notably the gallery & museum visits deadlines, the final deadline for all project evaluations, and the final deadline for sketchbook work. If you have any legitimate concerns, talk to me when they arise, not on the due date. (See those dinosaurs? Do you want to feel like them? No, you do not. Trust me – I’ve been there.) (Some words of this comic have been changed to protect the innocent.)



- **Play team** – we all benefit. Be an active part of our learning community. This means sharing your thoughts and work, working together, not disrupting others, and being responsible for the cleanliness, safety, care and maintenance of our class environment and equipment.

Final due date for gallery and museum visits and sketchbook work (20% of grade): Friday January 19th in my inbox or emailed to me by midnight. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Sketchbook: Nearly every week you will have a sketchbook assignment to work on outside of class. Each assignment should show an hour or more of quality work – NOT ten minutes drawing and fifty minutes watching TV with your sketchbook in front of you. Sketchbook work is due the first day of every week. Late work will receive half credit up to one week late and no credit thereafter.

Grades: Be prepared to accept the consequences of your actions, and inactions. Assignments are evaluated and scored on merit, without regard as to how they add up to a grade.

- **50% cartooning assignments:** See evaluation sheets for guidelines.
- **20% Sketchbook and quizzes.**
- **20% Use of classtime:** Graded as a weekly percentage of classtime used working on cartooning.
- **5% Fine Art Museum visit** – see below
- **5% Fine Art Gallery visit** – In Inglemoor art courses, you must show enough interest and initiative to do some learning on your own, in the form of visiting **BOTH** a fine art gallery **AND** a fine art museum. Pay attention to the attached visit form guidelines! Early (in by Monday November 13th) +5%. **ABSOLUTE LAST DAY ACCEPTED FOR CREDIT: FRIDAY January 19th** (HINT: be safe and get them handed in earlier).
- **I have no burning desire to drop everything and work harder to grade and enter late assignments to make up for your procrastination. If your not being grounded depends on your grades, get things in on time.**

Time Management:

- If you are tardy, in order to avoid an unexcused absence **that I will never change**, you must turn in a slip of paper with your name written clearly on it, as well as the time you entered class.
- Sign out **and** let me know when you need to leave the room. Failure to sign out/in, 15+ minutes out of class, or cutting out before the bell rings will count as an unexcused absence.
- Absences: You are responsible for finding out what you missed. Check online, check with friends, check with me.
- There's no such thing as "I'm all done", "not enough time", phone game or texting time, or study-hall for other classes' homework. Cleaning up early and sitting around, or standing by the door for the last five minutes of class, is ~~a good way for your grade to suffer a horribly vile, evil and memorably unpleasant demise, so not kidding~~ not acceptable.
- A working art studio is not a playground. **Activities such as throwing things will instantly earn a Saturday school and take a chunk out of your grade.**

Cheating will be dealt with according to the [Academic Honesty Policy](#). This includes (but is not limited to):

1. Faking or helping to fake a gallery or museum visit; copying responses from someone else's visit form; going with someone else and choosing the same artwork to talk about and collaborating on responses, or trying to make it seem like you turned it in on time when you did not.
2. Plagiarizing work, or turning in projects that are not your own. You may find inspiration in comics, movies, etc., but you should not borrow copyrighted work when your own ideas are required.

What you can expect from me:

- I will be in class on time, ready to instruct.
- I will treat you with respect and listen to your concerns.
- I will be fair, and help and encourage all I can.
- I am by nature a good-humored person. (In my own tyrannical, draconian, ruthless way). IF you let me continue to be so, I will now and then bring cookies or some such. The things I have no tolerance for are wasting time, throwing things, unsafe or bullying behavior, stealing and vandalism, cutting out of class early, and being under the influence of drugs. Sorry if this cramps your style, but deal with it.

Rob Flye

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Website: flieschool.com

➔Info For Adult-Type Units Pestered For Money And Signatures:

➔A required \$15 class fee covers everything and is due Friday September 15th. Please make checks payable to Inglemoor High School or IHS. You can also pay online (<https://www.nsd.org/Page/32181> - on the Inglemoor homepage, hover over the Parent menu tab and click on the Cashier/Payments link).

➔Required Outside of Class Activity: Visiting both a fine art gallery and a fine art museum is worth 10% of the class grade. Students have until January 19th to complete and turn in the assignments, which will not be accepted beyond this point for any reason. If you/your student has a busy schedule, figure out opportunities now.

➔Know more than your student wants you to! ParentVUE (<https://siswebpv.nsd.org>: there's a link under the Parents tab on the Inglemoor homepage) is your one-stop shopping center for gradebook, assignment, calendar and class info for all your student's classes. My website (flieschool.com) also has the resources needed for my classes.

Having been pestered with looking over and signing many of these forms myself, **I THANK YOU** for taking time to help your student and myself make this the best class possible.

Sincerely,
Rob Flye

Questions, thoughts and brilliant ideas always welcome.

----- Cut off and return this bottom portion only – keep the rest for reference -----

Student name _____ Period _____

Syllabus Signature for Cartooning classes: Please sign, get signed and cut off/return this section to show that both you and your parent/guardian understand the requirements for success in this class as outlined in the syllabus.

Student signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____ Date _____