

Natalia Reyes

**Fall 2023**

**ENGL 4517.401 Love and Rockets: The Great American Comic Book (The One Series)**

Crosslisted as: LALS 4517

TR 3:30-4:59 PM

**COURSE PROSPECTUS**

**Description**

This *One Series* course explores *Love and Rockets*, an anthology comic book series created by the collective known as Los Bros Hernandez and published continuously since 1978. We will approach the series through the lenses of Comics Studies and Latinx Studies. Is it true, as one scholar says, that, “*Love and Rockets* is the closest thing we have to ‘The Great American Comic Book?’” How does the series continue or challenge the legacy of the underground comix movement of the 1960s and 1970s? We will consider how *Love and Rockets* incorporates elements of the anarchist LA punk scene, challenges notions of Latinidad, and expands the visual vernacular of gender & sexuality in American comics. Alongside two representative volumes from *Love and Rockets*, we will read criticism, watch documentaries, incorporate our own comics research, and write comics of our own. Assignments will include brief research exercises and short writing in various forms. For the final projects, students will have the choice of a critical essay or creative project. Students will come away from the class with increased visual literacy as well as a basic theoretical framework for ethnic studies writ large.

**Assignments**

1. First 3–4-page comics analysis paper (15%)
2. Second 5–7-page comics analysis paper (20%)
3. Weekly comics exercises – no drawing experience required (15%)
4. Proposal for final project (10%)
5. Final project: 8–10-page critical essay or creative work (25%)
6. Class participation (15%)

**Class structure and pacing**

Class will be run as a seminar, and your active participation in discussion forms an important part of the course. You will be asked to read about 50 pages for each class session, sometimes less. The only required text(s) for the course are [\*Maggie the Mechanic\*](#) and [\*Heartbreak Soup\*](#). Other readings will be made available on Canvas.