In recent years, comics have gained a foothold in the museum and gallery world through the so-called genre of "art comics." These are comics made with a fine-art sensibility and responding to the concerns and interests of contemporary art. This course will study all forms of art comics, including the work of Gary Panter, that of the Fort Thunder and Paper Rad groups, and abstract comics; will trace their sources back to Pop Art as well as to the underground comics of the 1960s; and will also study earlier cross-fertilizations of the comics and fine-arts worlds going back to the early part of the twentieth century, with emphasis on cartoonists at the New Yorker from the 1930s to the 1960s, particularly William Steig and Saul Steinberg. We will also study the relatively recent phenomenon of museum shows displaying original comic art.