**Instructor: Visual Analysis — Representations in Persepolis**

**Rhetoric 1030 Semester**

**Important Dates:**

Image outline workshop on

Essay draft workshop on

**Assignment:**

Pick a single object or idea represented visually by Marjane Satrapi’s illustrations in *Persepolis* and collect, research, and analyze other visual representations of this object. Consider how those visual representations speak to broader social, cultural, economic, civic, or religious meanings. You will write an **1500-1800 word essay, formatted like a blog post with embedded images and links. Your essay must include all images as screen shots with captions** to interrogate this constellation of images.

So, you will start by finding a single image in *Persepolis* that represents an idea or object in a way that you find compelling. This could be as simple as the way a Walkman is represented. Use that image as a jumping off point for research, looking at news media and popular culture to find images that represent the **same** object or idea. Consider how you might analyze these images to find the larger conversation or the broader arguments as they relate to one another.

Including the image you use from *Persepolis*, you’ll locate a total of **3-5 representations** of the same idea or object. You will rhetorically analyze and deconstruct each image for the ways in which it portrays your idea or object and how it operates within the context of the larger argument of the publication. For example, you might choose to study a particularly potent visual representation of the hijab in *Persepolis*. Next, you might look at the way that Nike represents the hijab in advertising its new Nike Pro Hijab for athletes. (See what I mean here: <http://www.nike.com/us/en_us/c/women/nike-pro-hijab>.) After gathering more images, you will spend several pages deconstructing how each of the images operates rhetorically. Finally, and looking deeply at your own analyses, you will make your own claim about the significance of visual representations of the hijab. Mainly, reflect upon how these images are in conversation with one another.

Consider the following questions to help form your argument. Your claim will function by answering at least one of the following questions:

* Why does it matter that these objects or images are depicted in these particular ways?
* What does the collection as a whole tell us about how this object or idea is understood or used in a specific context?
* How do the arguments made with this object or image illuminate something new about the thing itself?

**Your essay will include screenshots of all the images you investigate, including any necessary coordinating images that help to explain the context of your researched representations. Caption each of the images that appears in your essay in order to inform your reader how they should understand the image in the context of your essay.**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this assignment is to build your research skills, as you assemble sources from a variety of perspectives. Creating an outline will help you organize your sources and thoughts, in order to prepare you for your final paper. You will also employ the skills you have acquired throughout the semester: rhetorical analysis, mapping, and responsible advocacy. Use these skills while you analyze your image from *Persepolis*, map out the different positions of all of the images (and any supplementary sources), and assemble all these as evidence for your own argument.

**Formalities:**

You will collect and include **3-5 images**, including **one** from *Persepolis*, and craft a **1500-1800 word essay** rhetorically analyzing each, placing each in conversation with one another, and establishing a thoughtful claim about the significance of the image as it’s represented more broadly. Format your essay as a blog post, embedding and captioning your images and including hyperlinks where appropriate. We will perform rhetorical analysis activities as we read *Persepolis* to prepare for the essay.

Screenshot all images and be prepared to share in class for feedback from your group members as we begin the drafting stages. In your groups, you will discuss how your collection of images speaks to the original choice (and the argument it makes) from *Persepolis*. This will help you to interrogate how these images relate to one another and how they say something new, interesting, or necessary about the original when presented in a different context. We will also workshop your essay in class.

**Note: This assignment would work particularly well for instructors who have a students blog.**

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