**Rhetoric 1030 Lesson Plan Week 1:** *Persepolis*

**Day 1**

**Read:**

* Satrapi, *Persepolis* (Introduction, pp. 3-46)
* Excerpts from Scott McCloud’s *Understanding Comics*: Visual Analysis, Mapping Research Questions: (if you can, just read these selections on screen rather than printing them, but take notes and be prepared to discuss the questions below)
* [Chapter 1 (McCloud, *Understanding Comics*)](https://uiowa.instructure.com/courses/2817/files/2240472/download?wrap=1)
* [Chapter 2 - Part 1 (McCloud, *Understanding Comics*)](https://uiowa.instructure.com/courses/2817/files/2240484/download?wrap=1)
* [Chapter 2 - Part 2 (McCloud, *Understanding Comics*)](https://uiowa.instructure.com/courses/2817/files/2240490/download?wrap=1)

**Be ready to discuss the following questions about McCloud's work in class**:

Chapter 1:

* What is the difference between movies and comics? How do these different media avail themselves of time and space?
* Define what the word “sequential” means.
* Define what the word “juxtaposed” means.
* List some examples of early uses of “sequential art.” How did these techniques evolve over time?
* How does McCloud define the word “comics” and what problems does he list when he reconsiders that definition?

Chapter 2:

* What is an “icon”? What types of icons are there?
* What is the masking effect?
* How do certain comics use images to make their audience/readers identify with the characters of the story? How do they use more detailed drawings to create a sense of “otherness” (being different)?

Graphic Novel: A story, most often fantasy or science fiction, presented in the format of a comic book. After about 1975 graphic novels became increasingly serious and subtle, and some were as well-produced as “standard” books and magazines. Related to Manga, which began as a specifically Japanese adaptation style

**Intro to Genre**

Handout: What is a Graphic Novel?

**Freewrite I** (10 minutes): How much experience do you have with Graphic Novels? How was your reading experience with McCloud/Satrapi?

**Group work** (10 minutes, 10 minute discussion): Scott McCloud – Divide up the following questions:

* Chapter 1:
	+ What is the difference between movies and comics?
	+ How do these different media avail themselves of time and space?
	+ Define what the word “juxtaposed” means.
	+ Define what the word “sequential” means.
	+ List some examples of early uses of “sequential art.”
	+ How did these techniques evolve over time?
	+ How does McCloud define the word “comics” and what problems does he list when he reconsiders that definition?
* Chapter 2:
	+ What is an “icon”?
	+ What types of icons are there?
	+ What is the masking effect?
	+ How do certain comics use images to make their audience/readers identify with the characters of the story?
	+ How do they use more detailed drawings to create a sense of “otherness”?

**Bio** (5 minutes): Satrapi (Power Point)

* Born in Rasht, Iran; lived in Tehran, Iran; Vienna, Austria, Strasbourg & Paris, France
* Family: descendants of the Iranian Azeri family (royalty)
* Education: diverse lycees-francaises in Iran and Austria; studied Visual Communication in Tehran
* Works: *Persepolis, Chicken with Plums, Monsters Are Afraid of the Moon*

**Explain genre terms:**

* Graphic Memoir
* Coming of Age
* Bildungsroman

**Discuss Context**:

* How does she set up the story?
* Who are the main characters?
* Are they hard to tell apart?
* Is this part of the visual language she uses?

**Discuss Characters**:

* Marji
* Father: Ebi
* Mother: Taji
* Grandmother
* Mehri (maid)

**Discuss Setting**: Pull up map of Iran

Plot: Favorite Panels?

**Class Discussion** (15-20 minutes):

* How does Marji change throughout this section? How do you respond to the development of this character? Are you appalled at her bluntness or drawn in?
* How are other characters introduced? Is that introduction effective?
* How does Satrapi employ exposition? Does it confuse readers to diverge from the plot line in order to give more information?
* Do you feel like you know more about Iranian history than you did? Is it confusing? How does this story reshape certain stereotypes Americans might have of the middle east? Re-read Satrapi’s intro:
* “Since then, this old and great civilization has been discussed mostly in connection with fundamentalism, fanaticism, and terrorism. As an Iranian who has lived more than half of my life in Iran, I know that this image is far from the truth.”
* How are emotions or emotional moments portrayed in visual format?
* How do words/pictures complement each other? Where do they differ?
* How is the passing of time pictured?

**Group Work** (10 minutes, 15-minute discussion):

* How does she employ rhetorical methods in her graphic novel? Ethos, Mythos, Pathos, Logos? Look at various panels, facial expressions, information, etc.

**Freewrite II** (10-15 minutes):

* What did you know about Iran/the Middle East prior to reading Satrapi? What do you know now?

**Group Work** (15 minutes today, more time & presentations next class?):

* Think up a coming of age story/short biography of real or imagined person (beginning – middle – end – cliffhangers allowed). Write it up in paragraph form. Then decide how many panels you would need to tell the story – Draw it.

**Day 2:**

**Read:**

* Satrapi, *Persepolis* (pp. 47-102)
* Scott McLoud Continued *(Making Comics)*: Language Analysis, Excerpt from Ch. 3 (instead of printing the reading, focus on completing the reading and be ready to discuss the questions below in class)
* [Chapter 3 (McCloud, Making Comics) - Excerpt](https://uiowa.instructure.com/courses/2817/files/2240540/download?wrap=1)

**Be ready to discuss the following questions in class**:

* Chapter 3 (*Making Comics*)
	+ How do words complement pictures? What should comics artists be aware of when using words?
	+ How does Satrapi balance words/pictures? List examples from her work!
	+ Think of the term "onomatopoeia"? How are variations of visual "sound effects" used in *Persepolis*?

**Freewrite** (10 minutes, 15-minute discussion):

* How does she employ rhetorical methods in her graphic novel? Ethos, Mythos, Pathos, Logos? Look at various panels, facial expressions, information, etc. 🡪 Think/Pair/Share

**Group work**: Discussion of Rhetorical Methods: 5 mins

* Favorite Panels?

**Chapter 3 (*Making Comics*) Group Work (10 minutes) Discussion (10 minutes)**

* How do words complement pictures? What should comics artists be aware of when using words?
* How does Satrapi balance words/pictures? List examples from her work!
* Think of the term "onomatopoeia"? How are variations of visual "sound effects" used in *Persepolis*?

**Group work** (15-20 minutes):

* Think up a coming of age story/short biography of real or imagined person (beginning – middle – end – cliffhangers allowed). Write it up in paragraph form. Then decide how many panels you would need to tell the story – Draw it.

Presentations of Graphic Novels (15 minutes)

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