

HUM325 Comics & Culture Midterm
Due in class Wednesday, November 6

DO Parts 1 (a, b, or c), 2, and 3 below:

1) Short Essay: Answer one of the following prompts (minimum 300 words)

- a. Write a letter to an authority figure (your parents, principal, teacher, or...) explaining why comics are appropriate for the classroom or worthy of study at the university level.
- b. Describe some essential ways in which comics are unique and distinct from other art forms such as literature, film, and poetry in terms of conveying narrative.
- c. Focus on a single aspect of one of our readings thus far (Robot Dreams, American Born Chinese, Persepolis, City of Glass, Marbles, or the shorter readings like Mr. Wonderful, ...), and discuss how it contributed to how meaning was made in the comic.

2) Visual Analysis/Annotation

Choose a single page to visually annotate and analyze (either from the sample I provide, our readings, or that you find on your own). As with our earlier analysis exercise, annotate the page with notes and diagrammatic elements. Draw directly on the page, and explain the effect of the various stylistic and other creative elements. Offer analytical commentary in regards to the creative decisions being made, and what they do to your understanding of the comic. We want to emphasize observation and what you can deduce from everything you have observed. This should help you think about the construction of the comic—how is it made, why is it made in this way, and what is the effect of it being made this way?

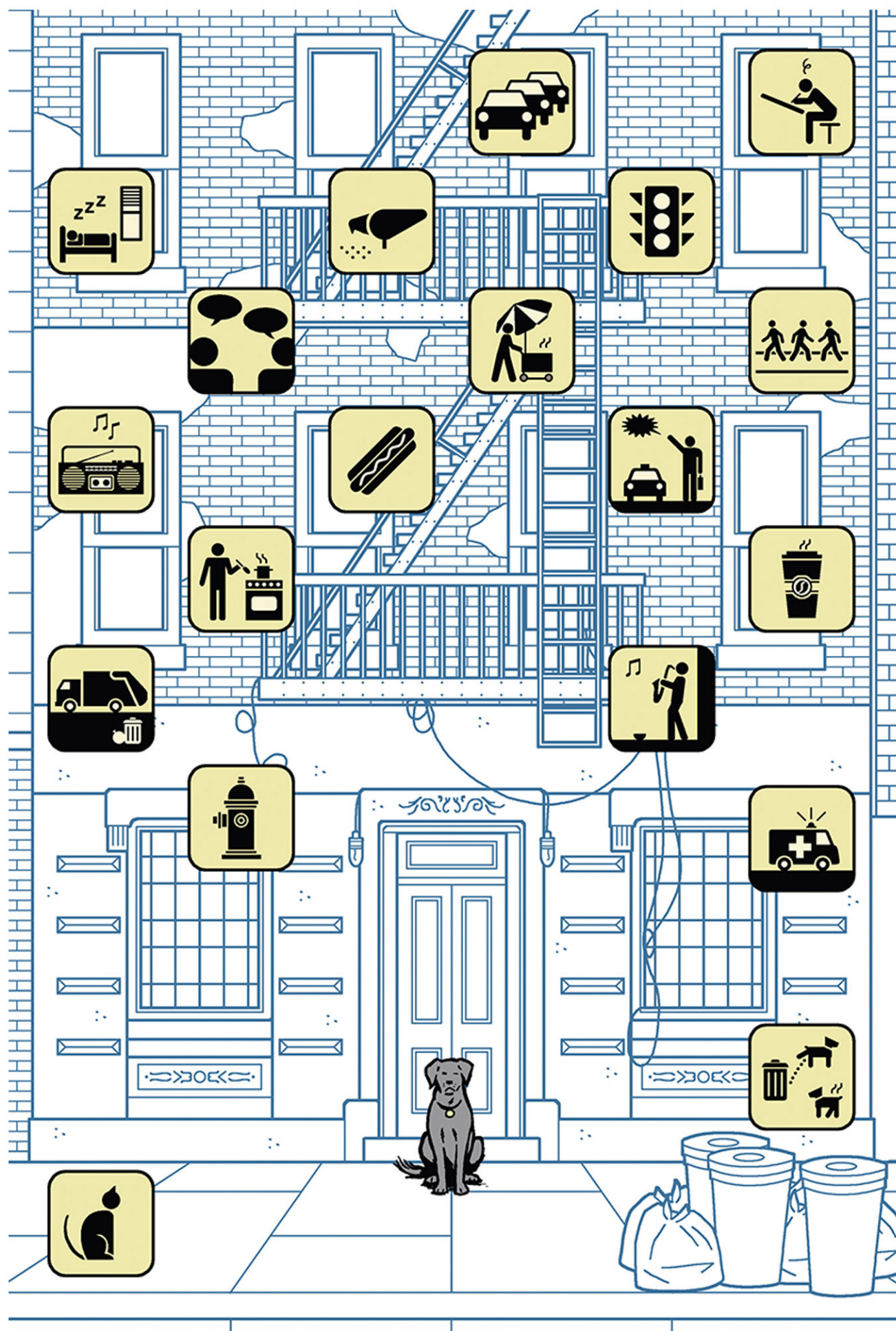
3) Comic as Demonstration

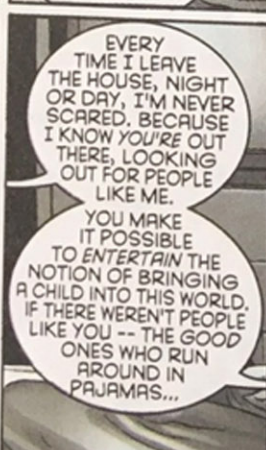
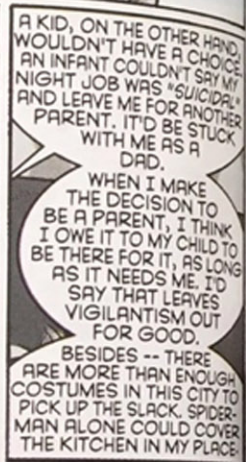
Draw a one-page comic that incorporates at least 8 of the following 12 terms. Then, annotate your own comic briefly, simply pointing out where and why you incorporated the terms. The comic does not have to demonstrate strong artistic skill*, but it should be cohesive and well-planned, and should demonstrate an advanced understanding of the form.

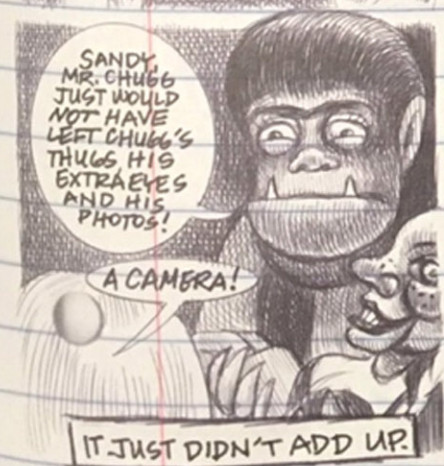
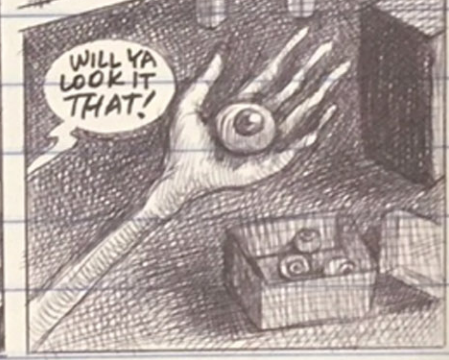
- Iconic variation (within McCloud's triangle)
- Action-to-action transition
- Aspect-to-aspect transition
- Scene-to-scene transition
- Interdependent word/picture combination
- Wordlessness across at least three panels
- Visual sound effects
- Emanata
- Negative space
- Overlapping panels
- Simultaneity (images that continue across multiple panels)
- Wildcard of your choice (please note this in your comments)

* If you need a little help drawing not-so-stick figures, remember the geometric body exercises we did in class – ala Ivan Brunetti (<http://www.tcj.com/“nothing-good-can-come-out-of-dishonesty”-an-interview-about-teaching-with-ivan-brunetti/>)

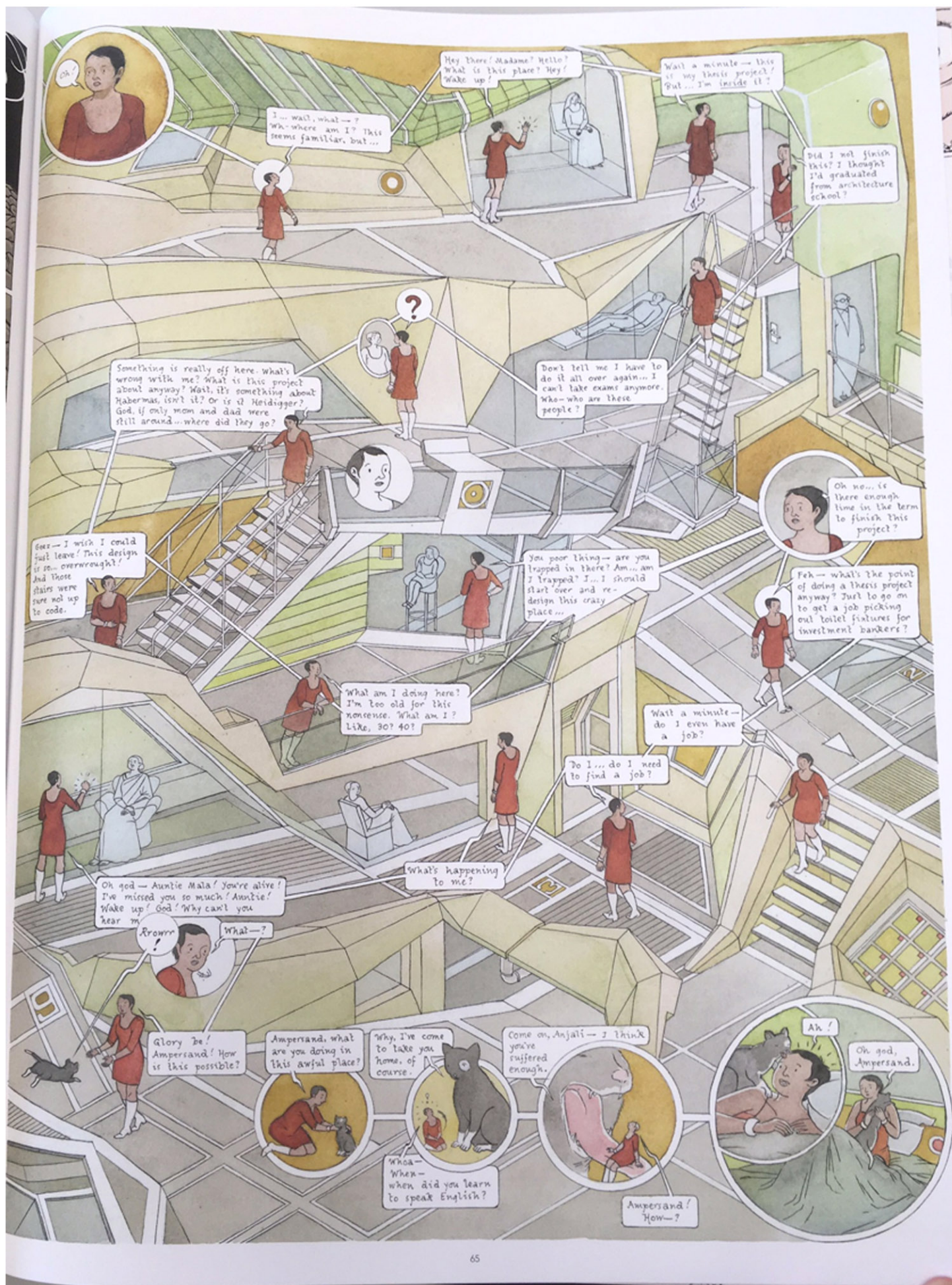
Also – for support on terms, theories, etc., look back at the PDFs I've compiled for you to assist in the earlier visual analysis exercise.











Oh!

I... wait, what...? Wh-where am I? This seems familiar, but...

Hey there! Madame? Hello? What is this place? Hey! Wake up!

Wait a minute—this is my thesis project! But... I'm inside it?

Did I not finish this? I thought I'd graduated from architecture school?

?

Something is really off here. What's wrong with me? What is this project about anyway? Wait, it's something about Habermas, isn't it? Or is it Heidegger? God, if only mom and dad were still around... where did they go?

Don't tell me I have to do it all over again... I can't take exams anymore. Who—who are these people?

Gez—I wish I could just leave! This design is so... overwrought! And those stairs were sure not up to code.

Oh no... is there enough time in the term to finish this project?

Feh—what's the point of doing a thesis project anyway? Just to go on to get a job picking out toilet fixtures for investment bankers?

You poor thing—are you trapped in there? Am... am I trapped? I... I should start over and re-design this crazy place...

What am I doing here? I'm too old for this nonsense. What am I? Like, 30? 40?

Wait a minute—do I even have a job?

To I... do I need to find a job?

Oh god—Auntie Mala! You're alive! I've missed you so much! Auntie! Wake up! God! Why can't you hear me?

What's happening to me?

Rorrrr! What—?

Glory be! Amperсанд! How is this possible?

Amperсанд, what are you doing in this awful place?

Why, I've come to take you home, of course.

Come on, Anjali—I think you're suffered enough.

Ah! Oh god, Amperсанд.

Whaa—When—when did you learn to speak English?

Amperсанд! How—?

LITTLE NEMO IN COIN-OP LAND

