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.
WHEN YOU DON'T FIND ME SEXY ANYMORE, I GUESS.

I'VE HAD A CHILD, I ALWAYS ASSUMED IT'D QUIT WHEN THERE WAS A KID TO THINK ABOUT.

SURE, IT'S ONE THING TO HAVE YOU WAITING AT HOME FOR ME, HOPING I COME BACK ALIVE. I MEAN, YOU'RE AN ADULT. YOU'RE A PARENT. I'D BE STUCK WITH ME AS A DAD.

I CAN'T WAIT TO HAVE YOUR BABY. I'LL BE AN EXCELLENT MOTHER. I PROMISE.

IT'S A BAD WORLD OUT THERE, MATT. AND WHILE YOU CAN NEVER CHANGE THAT, YOU AT LEAST MAKE IT SAFER TO WALK AROUND IN.

EVERY TIME I LEAVE THE HOUSE, NIGHT OR DAY, I'M NEVER SCARED, BECAUSE I KNOW YOU'RE OUT THERE, LOOKING OUT FOR PEOPLE LIKE ME.

YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO ENTERTAIN THE NOTION OF BRINGING A CHILD INTO THIS WORLD. IF THERE WEREN'T PEOPLE LIKE YOU -- THE GOOD ONES WHO RUN AROUND IN PANTS...

NOT THIS. THIS -- THIS LIFE, WHERE LESS THAN AN HOUR AFTER WE MAKE LOVE, YOU'RE JUMPING OFF ROOFTOPS AND BEATING PEOPLE UP.

OKAY, THEN. MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.

NAME IT.

EXCUSE ME?

...BEATING DOWN THE EVIL PEOPLE WHO RUN AROUND IN PANTS... I DON'T KNOW IF I'D EVER EVEN THINK ABOUT HAVING A BABY.
THAT WAS WONDERFUL!
LET'S GO TO MY HOUSE.
SURE

SANDY SEEMED SO HUNGRY AND I KNEW MAMA WOULD FEED HER...

I'VE LIVED IN THIS PLACE FOR MY WHOLE LIFE...

WE TOOK THE ROUTE THAT CUTS THROUGH THE ALLEY...

MR CHUGS?

HEY KAREN! KEEPER MYTT'S OUTTA THAT NOACRUTY MR. CHUGSSES CRAPP D'YA HEAR?

MR CHUGS HAD BEEN LIVING IN THE BUILDING SINCE BEFORE I WAS BORN AND NOW HIS STUFF WAS IN THE TRASH?

WHO IS THAT?
THE DEVIL WITH BOOBS.

WHO IS MR CHUGSES?

MR CHUGS VENTRILQUIST WITH A GLASS EYE.

SANDY, MR. CHUGS JUST WOULDN'T HAVE LEFT CHUG'S CHUGS HIS EXTRA EYES AND HIS PHOTOS!

I NEVER DID ONE OF THESE, DO I PUSH THAT BUTTON?

IT JUST DIDN'T ADD UP.

SANDY TOOK OUR PICTURE.

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE EFFECT OF THE FLASH ON MY EYES... BUT SANDY SEEMED TO FLOAT DOWN THE HALL AS PALE AND FEATHERY AS A MOTH IN MOONLIGHT...

THANK YOU KAREN! IT WAS MY BEST BIRTHDAY EVER...

BYE!
LITTLE NEMO IN COIN-OP LAND

MOM SAID THAT I SHOULD SET THE WATER ON COLD
PSST, NEMO! COME ON IN, THE WATER'S FINE!
HEY! WATCH OUT FOR THE FABRIC SOFTENER

WE SEEM TO BE MOVING IN A CIRCLE!
LOOK NEMO. FLYING FISH!

BUBBLES! AND SQUID?!
WATCH OUT!
HEY! OPEN UP!

SOON WE'LL BE UNDER THE WAVES

这些触手正快速地抓住我!

NEMO? NEE-MO? WHERE IS THAT BOY?

HURRY UP NEMO!

HE RAN OFF AND LEFT THE LAUNDRY FOR ME.

WHEN HE DOES SHOW UP I'LL GIVE HIM THE WHAT FOR!

THUMP THUMP
MAMA! I'M IN HERE!
Energy ever seeks lower levels, flowing from more ordered states to disorder, dispersing over time.

This is inviolate.

There are brief instances when things do swirl back against the flow.

Yet,

Life

Thrive defiantly.

In all its unlikelihood, is particularly efficient at gathering from the stream.

Propelling their own existence by touching off further vortices.

They reproduce.

Vortices of temporary stability.

Winding up in more highly ordered structures.

Systemic coalge.

Even as time marches on.

Spin together into distinct forms.

Which capture and store energy.

So concentrated, great imbalances occur.

Each of us, during our brief time in the stream, has the opportunity to reflect on the forces that set time in motion.

And reach in to send up something uniquely our own against the flow.
Oh boy! Are we off on a new adventure? What are we doing this time? Nemo, you're in big trouble!

We're going bar hopping!

What size?

What are cups?

Rolled paper

Hey, do you ever feel like —

They're all just staring at you? Totally.

Why do they assume I want a pushup?

Tell you're a pushover! Arg!

Do you want support, comfort, or 'udora neglect'?

Terrible!

Bra up, bra down? We're out of those!

Look! Zebra-print! Leopard-print! Newspaper!

Sale rack! Low-expectation bras!

I qualify for those!

Too much with the fancy!

Ugh! I give up! Can't I just let 'em play around?

Let's see if Nemo found anything.

Oof! Oof! Oof! Oof!

A Heart

Is B. Por Beca

Oops! I'm a

A Heart

A Heart

A Heart

Is B. Por Beca