

ASSIGNMENT // READINGS

Throughout this semester, we will be reading three books directly related to the field and craft of illustration.

OBJECTIVE //

The first two books we will be reading, by McCloud and Satrapi, are canons in graphic narrative, a popular direction for illustrators. Therefore, it's important for us to be aware of current/recent/seminal works in our field. Additionally, reading these narratives will open up the conceptual gates of what might be possible in our craft, in terms of form and expression. Also, writing and communicating are critical elements in any creative career path, in order to get jobs, grants, fellowships, scholarships and noticed in general. Our last book will be about the pursuit of illustration as a career, and will present ideas on how to get started and market work.

GUIDELINES //

The Course Schedule (see Syllabus) outlines a detailed timetable for what readings are due when. The essential progression will be:

// Read a defined section

This should be self-explanatory. Read the books with awareness and regularly ask yourself why the reading matters to you, to your interests and goals as an illustrator or graphic designer. Relate the ideas to you. Think about the form of their work (look at color, contrasts, compositions, integration of text and image; what are they trying to communicate, etc.).

// Participate in The Tuesday Thinkery

This will be a time/space for us to discuss what we've read. The conversation will follow the group's general interests, though there will be some defined topics. For instance, in Satrapi's book, we might talk about her use of objects to communicate larger ideas. We might also talk about the quality of her drawings as the book progresses from her young life to her adult life. You will probably need to take notes during these discussions, to help inform your blog postings.

// Upon completing the book, post your overall comments to our blog

The blog is for the class to participate and post whatever interests you. There will also be formal assignments, like this one. At the end of each book, you will post what you found most interesting about the book and our discussion of it. If you don't like it, that's fine but be constructive and thoughtful as to why.

READING SCHEDULE

Book	Reading No.	Due Date	Pages
Understanding Comics	1	1/26	1-59 (Chapters 1-2)
Understanding Comics	2	2/2	60-117 (Chapters 3-4)
Understanding Comics	3	2/9	118-161 (Chapters 5-6)
Understanding Comics	4	2/16	162-215 (Chapters 7-9)
Persepolis	5	2/23	1-86
Persepolis	6	3/2	87-163
Persepolis	7	3/9	164-245
Persepolis	8	3/23	246-341
Fundamentals of Illustration	9	3/30	1-47 (Chapter 1)
Fundamentals of Illustration	10	4/6	48-85 (Chapter 2)
Fundamentals of Illustration	11	4/13	81-119 (Chapter 3)
Fundamentals of Illustration	12	4/20	120-170 (Chapters 4-5)