Weaving comics pedagogy into a multi-level creative writing program
AWP 2024
Pre-recorded panel with Sarah Leavitt, Taylor Brown-Evans, Emily Chou and Eve Salomons

RECOMMENDED READING/VIEWING

*Understanding Comics* by Scott McCloud: an exploration, in comics form, of what comics are. McCloud’s theories have been debated and criticized since this was published in 1993, but also widely adopted as a way of conceptualizing what comics are and how they differ from other forms.

*Making Comics* by Scott McCloud; *Drawing Words and Writing Pictures* by Jessica Abel and Matt Madden; and *Cartooning Philosophy and Practice* by Ivan Brunetti: excellent books about how to make comics, invaluable for students and teachers. All of them include writing and drawing exercises.

*MetaMaus* by Art Spiegelman: a series of interviews in which Spiegelman discusses in detail why and how he created his classic comics memoir, *Maus*.

*How to Read Nancy: The Elements of Comics in Three Easy Panels* by Paul Karasik and Mark Newgarden: This book uses one Nancy strip as a foundation for explaining multiple elements of comics structure.


*What It Is* by Lynda Barry: a collection of meditations on creativity and exercises for tapping into your own stories; not specifically about comics but very useful for comics class. (Barry also has a book called *Making Comics*, but *What It Is* is still my favourite – SL.)

*Best American Comics*: an annual collection of comics published 2006-2019, with a different editor each year; a great resource for students to explore examples of a wide range of styles and content.

*Strip Panel Naked*: YouTube channel of comics scholar and letterer Hassan Otsmane-Elhaou. Tons of short videos with sharp, clear explanations of how comics work: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYJAToPH5GSGShP7Yoc3jsA/feed