****

**The Graphic Novel Experience: From Concept to Creation**

**Course & Contact Information:**

**Course Date**: June 15, 2024

**Course Meeting Days & Time: Saturday, 10am-noon**

**Instructor**: Bahar Momeni

**Course Description:**

**The Graphic Novel Experience: From Concept to Creation** is a workshop designed to explore the dynamic world of graphic novels. Participants will explore the art and narrative techniques unique to this medium. Throughout the course, participants will analyze and discuss seminal works, including "Maus" by Art Spiegelman and "Persepolis" by Marjane Satrapi. Participants can also create their own graphic novel concepts, focusing on character development, visual storytelling, and thematic depth. At the end of the course, learners will present their main storyline and portagonist and receive peer feedback, enabling a collaborative and creative learning environment.

**Course Takeaways:**

Learn Visual Storytelling Techniques

- Learners will gain insight into the elements of visual storytelling, including panel layout, use of color, and the integration of text and image to create compelling narratives.

Gain Skills in Graphic Novel Creation

- Learners will develop practical skills in conceptualizing and creating their own graphic novel projects, from character development and scripting to storyboarding.

**Course Materials:**

**Course Readings:**

1. **Art Spiegelman, Maus**

- Maus is a Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel that tells the harrowing true story of the author's father's experience during the Holocaust. Using anthropomorphic characters, Spiegelman explores themes of trauma, survival, and memory.

2. **Marjane Satrapi, Persepolis**

- Persepolis is an autobiographical graphic novel that depicts Satrapi's childhood and early adult years in Iran during and after the Islamic Revolution. The novel provides a unique perspective on the cultural and political upheavals in Iran.

**Recommended Post-Course Readings:**

1. **Alison Bechdel, Fun Home**

- In Fun Home, Bechdel delves into her complex relationship with her father, exploring themes of family, identity, and sexuality. This memoir is known for its intricate artwork and deep emotional resonance.

2. **Riad Sattouf, The Arab of the Future**

- The Arab of the Future is a memoir in graphic novel form that recounts Sattouf's childhood in Libya and Syria. The narrative provides a vivid portrayal of life in the Arab world during the 1970s and 1980s, blending humor and critical insight into cultural and political issues.

**Instructor Bio:**

Bahar Momeni, is an award-winning writer, poet and scholar. She is pursuing her Ph.D. in Literature at UT Dallas, where she teaches creative writing and world literature. Bahar's work, published in Farsi and English. She received the "Outstanding Emerging BIPOC Creator Award" from UT Austin in 2023 and the “2024 Future Art Writers Award” from MOZAIK Philanthropy and San Francisco State University. Bahar is currently focused on her debut semi-autobiographical graphic novel, *The Trees We Carry*, exploring identity, displacement, and resistance.