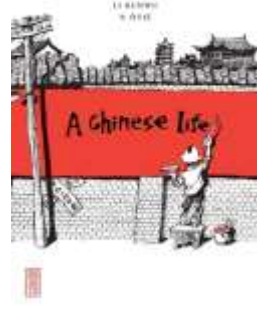
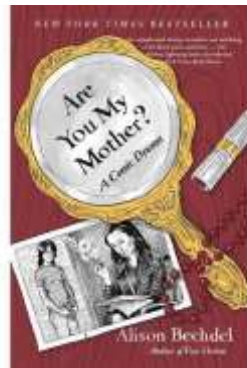
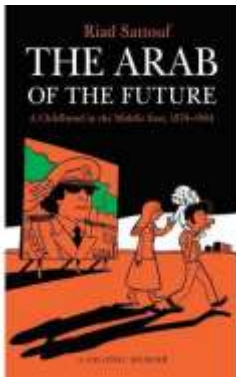


# JNST: Depicting the Marginal Self: Graphic Memoir, Part II

Fall 2021

Prof. Sharon Oster, English

TTH 2:30-3:50pm



A continuation of the May 2021 JNST seminar, "Depicting the Marginal Self," this semester-long seminar will engage students in the practices of literary, textual, visual and formal analysis of graphic narratives and memoirs by a range of international writers and artists, who tell their life stories from the margins of society, on the margins of the page. Some are "coming-of-age" narratives; some are "coming out" narratives. Others depict the individual confronting the politics of family, community, nation, war, and exile; all depict, in some configuration or other, the individual negotiating the politics of race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, or mental illness. In many cases, the genre raises ethical questions about visual depictions of violence and sex: how much is too much? How to depict without sensationalizing? How to expose racial- and gender-based violence without triggering traumatic effects in readers? Other questions we may explore: What does it mean to visualize the self as a cartoon, simply or artistically sophisticated? How does the visual medium tell invisible stories? How do graphic narratives reproduce yet help us critique visual stereotypes? What choices, advantages or disadvantages accompany different styles of graphic narrative, both for reading and interpretation? This course is contract-only. Evaluations will be based on weekly writing/literary analysis, oral presentation of interpretations, and a final paper or creative project of your choice. Authors may include (and students will help decide): Joe Sacco, Alison Bechdel, Thi Bui, David Small, Riad Sattouf, Miriam Katin, Craig Thompson, Philippe Otie and Li Kunwu, Clem and Olivier Martini, Lila Quintero Weaver, Michel

