Comics and Adaptation Assignment

deadline: Friday, April 2
points: 20 (20% of total grade)

From your syllabus
Find an "adaptation" in comic form. This adaptation can be of a story, fairy tale, historical event, movie, TV show, poem, ballad, video game, etc. Now find the "original" upon which the comic is based. Give an **analysis** of the comic with an eye towards *how it functions as an adaptation*. Keep our in-class discussions of comics and visual rhetoric in mind. While you are encouraged to look at the similarities a nd differences between the adaptation and the original, your essay needs to be an analysis of the new form, and therefore must *transcend the limitations* of the compare/contrast essay.

OR

Find a film based on a comic and do the same thing. Find the comic (or comics) on which the movie is based and write an **analysis** of the film with a focus on how that film functions as an adaptation of the comic (or comics). Keep the "forms" of both the film and the original comic in mind as you write.

CRITERIA FOR SUCCESS
- Your essay must be 8-10 pages
- Your essay must be well-written. Follow conventional, academic rules for organization, grammar, paragraph structure and punctuation. Open by introducing your argument and subject(s), continue with your argument and close on a conclusion that lets your reader know you have made every point you needed to make.
- Your thesis should be as clear as possible. In most cases, it should either be in your introductory paragraph or immediately following it.
- Your essay should not "get bogged down" in summary. ONLY use summary AS EVIDENCE to back up your claims.
- Your essay must show that you have researched your topic at a college level. This means that you need to find credible resources that (again) *help you back up your claims*. Whatever you do, DO NOT begin your research by thinking, "I obviously won't be able to find any good academic resources, since my paper is on a comic." That way leads disaster. (Okay, that way leads lazy scholarship, but for the purposes of this class, these are basically the same thing.) Good potential resources include: academic journals on comics and popular culture (*ImageTexT, IJOCA*). Bad *academic* resources include Wikipedia and "something I thought must be academic because I found it through Google Scholar, even though I did not check its credibility on my own." Google Scholar is an imperfect tool, and it has led many good students astray in the past. (A better search tool would be one of the UF Libraries Project Starters (with the proper search settings) or a database—like JSTOR—that includes journals on popular culture.)
- You must incorporate **AT LEAST ONE WORK OF COMICS THEORY** into your essay. Examples include McCloud's *Understanding Comics* (which we are reading in class), Will Eisner's *Comics and Sequential Art* and Douglas Wolk's *Reading Comics*. Keep in mind that **you do not have to agree** with the theory you use; it is equally valid to use your own work to critique, engage in a dialogue with or even disprove another researcher's argument.
- Use proper MLA format for both your layout and your (required) **BIBLIOGRAPHY**
- You must have a **BIBLIOGRAPHY**. You cannot get out of making a bibliography by using only works we read in class (which would probably be a bad idea anyway).

- You must use **IN-TEXT CITATIONS**.
- To recap: your essay should go: **Intro+thesis**, **claim 1+evidence** (from well-cited sources), transition, **claim 2+evidence** (from well-cited sources), transition . . . etc., **conclusion**.
- Remember to include **PERSONAL AND COURSE INFORMATION**, a **TITLE** and a **BIBLIOGRAPHY**. **NUMBER YOUR PAGES** in proper MLA format and **STAPLE YOUR PAGES TOGETHER**. If you do not do the things in this final bullet point, **I will hand your paper right back to you to be resubmitted for a late grade.**

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES
1. The resources listed on the "Week 10: Comics and Webcomics" section of our class Online Readings web page. (http://plaza.ufl.edu/penchanter/eng1131readings.html)
2. Comics-related journals like those listed on the ImageTexT links page (http://www.english.ufl.edu/imagetext/links.shtml) and ImageTexT itself (http://www.english.ufl.edu/imagetext/)
3. UF Libraries Project Starters, Databases and Journal Archives