ENG 093—Spring 2017, J. King
Writing Assignment IV: Maus Essay II

Schedule:
- April 17—Assignment Given / Essay Lecture
- April 19—Computer Lab 201 Outlining Day (Outline due at the end of day)
- April 24—Computer Lab 201 Drafting Day (You will need to show me what you have done to get credit this day)
- April 26—Instructor Workshop (Sign up in class for your time—we will not have regular class that day; instead, you will meet me in my office and bring your draft for review)
- May 3—Essay Due

Points:
- Outline 10 Points
- Draft Day 10 Points
- Instructor Workshop 20 Points
- Essay 100 Points

Length:
- 2-3 Pages

Instructions:
With Maus II, we finish out the journey that Spiegelman takes us on. For this essay, you will be responsible for writing a full essay on one of the following topics:

1) Adapted from Random House’s Guide to Maus: Thinking back to the first day of class and to the first day that we started this memoir, “were [you] initially startled or put off by seeing the cartoon format used in the service of material that is profoundly serious, [and] did those feelings change in the course of your reading? At what point, if any, did you find yourself accepting Spiegelman's visual and dramatic conventions?... [Now that you have read the full book,] [i]n what ways has the book stayed with you?”

2) As you are all aware, Spiegelman uses anthropomorphized animals to depict the characters within Maus, with the exception of using humans in the “Prisoner on the Hell Planet” section. Do you find Spiegelman’s use of animals as an effective way to depict the story he is trying to convey? Do you think the narrative becomes more powerful by using the iconography associated with the animals? If you do not, why do you think it falls short?

3) Spiegelman says in Metamaus: “The real story in Maus, at its most basic level, is probably something that goes further than that quote from my old notebook about degrees of survival. The subject of Maus is the retrieval of memory and ultimately, the creation of memory. The story of Maus isn’t just the story of a son having problems with his father, and it’s not just the story of what a father lived through. It’s about a cartoonist trying to envision what his father went through. It’s about choices being made, of finding what one
can tell, and what one can reveal, and what one can reveal beyond what one knows one is revealing.” What do you make of Spiegelman’s statement, and how does it apply to your reading of *Maus*? What does he mean it is a story of the “retreival of memory” and “the creation of memory?” What does Spiegelman reveal “beyond what one knows is revealing?”

**Things to Remember:**

- Make sure to give your essay a title that gives it an identity and that entices your reader to read further.
- Make sure you are aware of your audience. Use formal writing; no “I”. Stay away from contractions, clichés, and obvious or overstated sentences.
- Make sure that your essay has a central idea. This essay should have a clear and argumentative thesis within the introduction.
- Make sure that your essay is clearly organized and has transitions that enhance implicit connections among paragraphs, sentences, and ideas.
- Make sure that your essay has an introduction and conclusion.
- Stay in present tense, or the literary tense when writing about the graphic novel.
- If you quote or paraphrase from any source, remember that you have to cite this information within the essay (in-text or parenthetical citations) and outside of the essay (Works Cited Page). You will need to come see me if you choose to do this. Ultimately, I want to see your interpretation over others’.