



CES 285: Comedy as Resistance Online

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Course Description

Explore how comedy, humor, and satire are used to address social problems and push back against dominant culture. Students will examine historic and contemporary comedic forms such as blackface minstrelsy, political cartoons, and stand-up comedies and analyze how they have been used to critique and disrupt social-cultural stereotypes and inequities. We will also investigate the boundaries, politics, and different distinctions around something being just a joke.

Course Textbook

The Comic Offense from Vaudeville to Contemporary Comedy: Larry David, Tina Fey, Stephen Colbert, and Dave Chappelle
DESROCHERS

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ISBN-13: 978-1441160874

ISBN-10: 1441160876

Required

Course Goals

After completing this class, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the histories, theories, and functions of laughter and humor in the U.S.
- Explore how race, politics, social issues, economics, gender, and culture inform humor and learn what comedy teaches us about the self and society
- Critically analyze how humor and comedy are used to critique systems of power and inequities
- Reflect on how humor functions in one's own life and how laughter is prompted by socially constructed understanding of differences

Course Structure

- A Brief History of Comedy In the United States
- The Social Assassin
- Black Humor: Reflections on an American Tradition
- History of African American Humor
- The Mask of Minstrelsy
- Bill Cosby vs. Richard Pryor
- Black Women in Comedy

Course Requirements

Activities:

Every Monday through Friday, there will be online-class readings and videos. These activities are not graded, but there is an expectation they are read and/or watched.

Weekly Discussions:

Every week, there will be a 10 point discussion due at 11:59 PM in Saturday. You will be required to speak to a weekly topic discussed in the book or in lecture and relate it to the various videos watched. (110 points total).

Quizzes:

There will be 10 point quizzes each week. All answers can be found in the readings (open textbook/notes) and the quizzes not timed. (110 points total).

Essays

Midterm Reflection: will require you to write a 2 page essay that reflects on the idea of the "political assassin" and explain its importance in comedy as resistance. (90 points total)

*Reflective Analysis: will require you to find a joke that has been used as a form of resistance for **YOUR** affinity group and critically analyze how it critiques systems of power and inequities. Your essay will be 2 pages. (90 points total)*

Late work:

All work is due on the dates and times specified on Canvas. No late work will be accepted.

Arts & Humanities grading procedure:

100 -93%	A
90-92%	A-
89-87%	B+
86-83%	B
82-80	B-
79-77	C+
76-73	C

72-70	C-
69-67	D+
66-63	D
62-60	D-
59%---	F

Plagiarism

Plagiarism, or academic dishonesty, is the act of using another writer's words or ideas as your own. Plagiarism "may take many forms, including, but not limited to, using a paper written by someone else, using printed source s word-for-word without proper documentation, and paraphrasing or summarizing the ideas of others without acknowledging the source. Plagiarism can also occur when non-written ideas are taken without documentation--using someone else's de sign or performance idea, for example. In short, plagiarism is passing off someone else's ideas, words, or images as your own; it amounts to intellectual theft--whether or not it was your intention to steal." Plagiarism in this course may result in a paper's failing grade, or further disciplinary action from the Dean of Student Success. Consecutive acts of plagiarism may result in a failing grade for the class.

Values Conflicts

Essential to a liberal arts education is an open-minded tolerance for ideas and modes of expression that might conflict with one's personal values. By being exposed to such ideas or expressions, students are not expected to endorse or adopt them but rather to understand that they are part of the free flow of information upon which higher education depends.

To this end, you may find that class requirements may include engaging certain materials, such as books, films, and art work, which may, in whole or in part, offend you. These materials are equivalent to required texts and are e essential to the course content. If you decline to engage the required material by not reading, viewing, or performing material you consider offensive, you will still be required to meet class requirements in order to earn credit. This may require responding to the content of the material, and you may not be able to fully participate in required class discuss ions, exams, or assignments.

Classroom Behavior

The college's 'Affirmation of Inclusion' is posted in each class room and sets forth the expectation that we will all treat one another with respect and dignity regardless of whether or not we agree philosophically. This expectation is in line with the principle of free speech in a free society: we have the right to express unpopular ideas as long as we don't show disrespect for reasonable people who might believe otherwise. In an on-line course, you will be expressing ideas through the medium of the course site rather than face to face in the classroom. In that case, these expectations refer to the courtesy with which you communicate with one another through e-mails and e-discuss ions.

Part of this respect involves professional behavior toward the instructor, colleagues, and the class itself. Disruptive behavior is disrespectful behavior. The Division honors the right of its faculty to define "disruptive behavior," which often involves such things as arriving late, leaving early, leaving class and then returning, talking while others are trying to hear the instructor or their group members, doing other homework in class , wearing earphone s in

class, bringing activated beepers, alarm watches, or cellular phones into class, inappropriate comments or gestures, etc. In on-line courses, “flaming” anyone in the class is also considered disruptive behavior. Such behavior interrupts the educational process. When you are in doubt about any behavior, consult your instructor during office hours: we recognize the judgment of the instructor as the final authority in these matters.

When disruptive behavior occurs, instructors will speak to or e-mail the students concerned. Those students are then responsible for ending the disruptions at once. Failure to do so may result in removal of the students from class.”

Important Links

Bellevue College E-mail and access to MyBC:

All students registered for classes at Bellevue College are entitled to a network and e-mail account. Your student network account can be used to access your student e-mail, log in to computers in labs and classrooms, connect to the BC wireless network and log in to MyBC. To create your account, go to: <https://bellevuecollege.edu/sam> (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.). BC offers a wide variety of computer and learning labs to enhance learning and student success. Find current campus locations for all student labs by visiting the [Computing Services website](#) . (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)

Disability Resource Center (DRC):

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible.

If you are a person who requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc., please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.

The DRC office is located in B 132 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564 -4110. . . Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)

Public Safety:

The Bellevue College (BC) Public Safety Department’s well trained and courteous non-commissioned staff provides personal safety, security, crime prevention, preliminary investigations, and other services to the campus community, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Their phone number is 425.564.2400. The Public Safety website is your one-stop resource for campus emergency preparedness information, campus closure announcements and critical information in the event of an emergency. Public Safety is located in K100 and on the web at: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/publicsafety/> (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)