

comedy is a genre that is already familiar and popular among students, this course provides a foundation for students in understanding the perspective of comic legacies that are rooted in ancient and contemporary cultures.

- B. This course does not have a Lab component.
- C. This course generally transfers as an English program elective.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course does not serve as a General Education course.
- C. This course meets a Category B requirement in the English AA degree.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Introduction to comedy as a genre
 - 1. Historical and cultural contexts for comedy
 - 2. The modes of comedy
- B. Study of comedy from diverse writers and periods
- C. Ways to read and interpret text and visual forms of comedy
- D. Ways to write about comedy

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze comic writing and film within its literary, historical and social contexts, both orally and in writing (GE-NJ 1, 6, 7, *)
2. Use textual evidence to support logical and persuasive claims in writing (GE-NJ 1, 6, *)
3. Assess and utilize commonly accepted approaches and criteria for analyzing comedy (GE-NJ 6)

(*Embedded critical thinking)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe key elements of comic forms
2. Appraise cultural values reflected in comic writing and visual forms

C. Assessment Instruments

- A. research papers
- B. essays
- C. response papers
- D. discussion questions
- E. creative writing exercises and/or portfolio
- F. journals
- G. exams
- H. quizzes

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. essays and/or response papers that communicate effectively in standard English, with attention to grammar and mechanics and the finer points of writing style
- B. projects
- C. exams
- D. presentations
- E. discussion questions
- F. reading quizzes
- G. class participation
- H. journals

Given the goals and outcomes described above, the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course include:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small group work
- C. student oral presentations
- D. student collaboration
- E. independent study
- F. regular writing activities
- G. examination of films

VIII. Texts and Materials

Samples of specific texts that may be featured:

- A. Aristotle, *The Poetics*
- B. Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*
- C. Chaucer, *The Wife of Bath*
- D. Shakespeare, *The Taming of the Shrew/The Comedy of Errors*
- E. The Cavalier Poets
- F. Moliere, *The Misanthrope*

- G. Swift, *A Modest Proposal*
- H. Carroll, *The Humorous Verse of Lewis Carroll*
- I. Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*
- J. Twain, *How to Tell a Story/Humorous Stories and Sketches*
- K. Thurber, *The Thurber Carnival*
- L. Shepherd, *In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash*
- M. Seinfeld, *Sein Language*
- N. Maher, *If You Ride Alone, You Ride with Bin Laden*

Samples of specific films/television shows that may be featured:

- A. Chaplin, *The Great Dictator*
- B. BBC, *The Comedy of Errors*
- C. Monty Python, *The Search for the Holy Grail*
- D. Allen, *Annie Hall*
- E. Coen Brothers, *Fargo*
- F. *The Daily Show*
- G. Oliver, *Last Week Tonight*
- H. *Modern Family*
- I. *The Big Bang Theory*

Sample anthologies that may be used:

- A. Blaisdell, Bob (editor), *Humorous American Short Stories*, Dover, 2013,
- B. Neale, Steve and Frank Drutnik, *Popular Film and Television Comedy*, Routledge, 2006.
- C. Shydner, Ritch and Mark Schiff (editors), *I Killed: True Stories of the Road from America's Top Comics*, Three Rivers Press, 2007.

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

IX. Resources

Students will need to use library databases and other library resources for critical research assignments if the individual instructor chooses to assign a research project.

X. Honors Options

There is no Honors Option for this course.