

AP/EN 1202 6.0A: Satire, York University (2019-20)

Course director Dr. Natalie Neill
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 Office: 724 Atkinson
 Fall-term office hours: Tues., 11:00-12:00 (or by appointment)
 (winter-term office hours TBA)

Delivery Lecture and tutorials

Lecture time / location Tues., 8:30-10:30 / CLH K

Tutorials

Tutorial 2:	Tues., 11:30-12:30 (ATK 026)	Deanna Henderson
Tutorial 3:	Tues., 10:30-11:30 (RN 830A)	Deanna Henderson
Tutorial 4:	Tues., 11:30-12:30 (RN 830A)	Mark Wadman
Tutorial 5:	Tues., 12:30-1:30 (RN 830A)	Natalie Neill

Description

Satire is an art form that uses ridicule and defamiliarization to expose folly and criticize dominant cultural trends. This course introduces students to the history of satire through a chronological survey of key satirical writings. We will examine the many techniques that satirists have employed through the ages, as well as the social contexts that inspired their rebellious humour. We will focus on three ancient kinds of satire (Horatian, Juvenalian, and Menippean) and explore how they persisted from classical times to the present day. Satire will be observed operating within a broad range of forms and media, from poetry, novels, and short stories, to films, TV, and the Internet. The satires will be approached from a craft perspective and an audience-response perspective. In other words, we will consider both how the satires are written (or otherwise created) and the specific reactions they elicit from readers or viewers.

Learning Outcomes

Students will learn about the important kinds, devices, and targets of satire. Students will also acquire a good understanding of the historical development of satire and the key issues that attend the creation and reception of satiric texts. More broadly, students will develop and refine their close reading, critical thinking, and essay-writing skills. Henceforth, students will appreciate, and possibly create, contemporary satire.

Course Delivery

The course consists of weekly lectures in which readings will be contextualized and their formal elements and themes explained. Students will be taught – and shown how to apply – important terms and concepts. Classroom discussions will afford opportunities to practice textual analysis. Weekly tutorials will allow students to have in-depth discussions, acquire and develop essay-writing skills, and perhaps deliver oral presentations and do writing exercises. All course slides, handouts, and assignment instructions will be posted on the course Moodle site, which is also where students will upload their essays (via Turnitin links).

Method of Evaluation

See page five of this outline for an overview of the assignments.

Essay 1 (in tutorial)	10%	Tues., Oct. 8
Essay 2 (5-6 pages)	20%	Wed., Dec. 4
Essay 3 (7-8 pages)	30%	Fri., March 20
Final exam	25%	to be held during the examination period in April
Tutorial participation	15%	to be determined by the tutorial leader

Required Texts (in reading order)

The following texts are available for purchase at the university bookstore in York Lanes:

Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey* (Oxford)
 Edwin A. Abbott, *Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions* (Dover)
 Anita Loos, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (Penguin)
 George Orwell, *Animal Farm* (Penguin)
 Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale* (Penguin)
 Salman Rushdie, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* (Penguin)
 Thomas King, *One Good Story, That One* (HarperCollins)
 Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games* (Scholastic)

Links to additional, shorter readings will be posted under the appropriate week on our Moodle site and in the online version of this outline (see the Course Schedule). (Students are encouraged to print out these short readings and bring them to class, if possible.)

Students will also be responsible for *Get Out* (dir. Peele, 2016) and another satiric film (TBA). The films will be screened in class and may be borrowed from the Sound and Moving Image Library (SMIL) in Scott Library.

Suggested Resources (Optional)

☞ *The Elements of Style* by Strunk and White. This slim, classic reference work for writers is packed with handy tips on grammar and composition. It will help you to improve your writing at the sentence and paragraph level.

☞ *They Say, I Say* by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein. This popular book uses templates to teach the rhetorical moves that will enable you to build effective arguments.

☞ *Purdue's Online Writing Lab's (OWL) MLA Resources*. All assignments in this course must conform to MLA style guidelines. The OWL includes all you need to know (and more) about formatting English essays correctly:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_style_introduction.html

☞ York University's English Literature Research Guide:

<http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/literature>

COURSE SCHEDULE

Fall Term

Please make every effort to complete the assigned readings before class.

- Tues., Sept. 10 Introduction: What is Satire?
- Tues., Sept. 17 Ancient Greek Satire
Readings: [Aesop's Fables](#) (Please read a selection of the fables.)
Excerpts from satires by [Aristophanes](#) and [Lucian](#).
- Tues., Sept. 24 Ancient Roman Satire
Readings: Horace, Satire I.I, I.III, and I.IV (Read the satires [here](#).)
Juvenal, Satire I and X (Read them [here](#).)
- Tues., Oct. 1 Augustan Satire
Reading: Pope, "[The Rape of the Lock](#)"
- Tues., Oct. 8 Reading: Swift, "[A Modest Proposal](#)"
The in-tutorial essay will be held today.
- Oct. 12-18 – Fall Reading Week (no classes or office hours will be held this week)
- Tues., Oct. 22 Nineteenth-Century Satire
Reading: Austen, *Northanger Abbey*
Instructions for Essay 2 will be handed out today.
- Tues., Oct. 29 Reading: *Northanger Abbey*, continued
- Tues., Nov. 5 Reading: Twain, "[Advice to Youth](#)"; "[The Presidential Candidate](#)"
- Tues., Nov. 12 Reading: Abbott, *Flatland*
- Tues., Nov. 19 Readings: *Flatland*, continued
- Tues., Nov. 26 The Twentieth Century
Reading: Loos, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*
- Tues., Dec. 3 Reading: *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, continued

Essay 2 is due on Wednesday, Dec. 4, via the Turnitin link on Moodle.

Happy holidays! *Please* use the December break to read ahead.

Winter Term

- Tues., Jan. 7 Reading: Orwell, *Animal Farm*
- Tues., Jan. 14 Reading: *Animal Farm*, continued
- Tues. Jan. 21 Film screening (TBA)
- Tues., Jan. 28 Reading: Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*
Instructions for Essay 3 will be handed out today.

N.B., Feb. 3 is the last day to drop the course without receiving a grade. (The Course Withdrawal Period is from Feb. 4-April 5.)

- Tues., Feb. 4 Reading: *The Handmaid's Tale*, continued
- Tues., Feb. 11 Reading: Rushdie, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*
- Feb. 15-21 – Winter Reading Week (no classes or office hours will be held this week)
- Tues., Feb. 25 Reading: King, *One Good Story, That One* (selected stories TBA)
- Tues., March 3 Contemporary Satire: Adbusting, Grassroots Satire, and Fake News
- Tues., March 10 Contemporary Satire, continued: Comedy and Cartoons
- Tues., March 17 Contemporary Satire, continued
Reading: *The Hunger Games*

Essay 3 is due on Friday, March 20, via the Turnitin link on Moodle.

- Tues., March 24 Film screening: *Get Out* (dir. Peele, 2016)
- Tues., March 31 Course Wrap-Up and Review
- April 7-25 Examination Period

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (THE FINE PRINT)

Overview of Assignments

Essay 1 (worth 10%) – Tues., Oct. 8 (in tutorial)

Students will write an essay in tutorial groups about one or two of the short satires assigned in the first month of the course. Students will advance an argument (thesis) and demonstrate an understanding of the texts and the satire theories and devices covered to date.

Essay 2 (worth 20%) – Due: Wed., Dec. 4, via Turnitin

Students will write a 5-6 page double-spaced comparison essay in which close textual analysis is used to develop a clear thesis about two course texts. The essay must be formatted according to MLA specifications. No secondary sources are required.

Essay 3 (worth 30%) – Due: Friday, March 20, via Turnitin

Students will write a longer comparison essay (7-8 pages, double spaced) which uses textual analysis and research to support a clear thesis. Students who achieved B or higher on Essay 2 may pursue a creative writing option (details to follow). MLA formatting required.

Final Exam (worth 25%) – TBA (the exam will be held during the formal exam period)

The exam is cumulative and will consist of three parts. In Part A, students will define and provide examples of course terms. In Part B, students will identify and discuss the role of characters. In Part C, students will write an essay in which they will synthesize course material.

Participation (worth 15%)

Tutorial activities and assignments will be determined by individual tutorial leaders.

Assignment Submission

Turnitin

Students are asked to upload Essays 2 and 3 via Turnitin links on our Moodle site by the assignment due dates. Students are not required to hand in hard copies of the assignments. Turnitin.com is an Internet-based service that scans submitted works for similarity to material that may have been copied from public websites and other sources.

Lateness Penalty and Extensions

Assignments received after the due date will be docked 2.5% per two days late. An extension may be granted if there are extenuating circumstances. In order to request an extension, please contact your tutorial leader at least one week before the due date.

Academic Accommodations

If you need accommodations, please give the required form to your tutorial leader at the beginning of the term. For more information about Academic Support & Accommodations, follow this link: <https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/academic-support-accomodations>

The Writing Centre

Extra essay writing help is available at The Writing Centre. For contact information and a description of the services provided, follow this link: <http://writing-centre.writ.laps.yorku.ca/>

Academic Integrity

Always cite your sources. Information on the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty can be found here: <http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69>

Student Counselling & Development

For personal counselling services and other supports, contact York University's Student Counselling & Development (SCD): <https://counselling.students.yorku.ca/>