

SU 2025

AP/EN 3191 3.00 A (SU)	Comedy																
Course Director:	Name: Richardine Woodall Office: 728 Atkinson College Ext. 44594 e-mail: woodall@yorku.ca																
Time:	This course will be offered online. No specified meeting times.																
Delivery Format:	✓ ONLINE (Asynchronous)																
Description:	<p>Historically, comedy has a “low” reputation. In the <i>Poetics</i>, Aristotle argues that comedy is an imitation of low characters with some defect or ugliness. Aristotle’s remarks about comedy continue to shape our perception of comedy. In the Western tradition, the cultural practice of staging comedy and the critical study of comedy begin with classical Greek theatre. Thus, many comedic plays are on our reading list; these plays cover such genres as romantic comedy, city comedy, comedy of manners, and comedy of the absurd. Art is a socio-cultural phenomenon, and as western societies have changed so too has comedy. Accordingly, in order to study such change, our course considers the manifestation of comedy in several historical periods and literary genres.</p> <p>Our course questions comedy’s low status as well as such concomitant assumptions that comedy cannot treat serious subjects and that its interests are the trivial and the common. Thus, we study these texts with the following questions in mind. What is comedy? What is the social function of comedy? What value does comedy have, and what values does it produce in our culture? What are our expectations of comedy and are they fulfilled? How are these expectations produced? What are the conditions under which comedy is produced? In order to better answer some of these questions, our course’s reading list also includes a selection of secondary and theoretical texts. Collectively, our readings further our understanding of comedy philosophically, historically, psychologically, and socio-culturally.</p>																
Category:	B																
Historical Requirement:	N/A																
Requirements:	<table> <tr> <td><u>Assignment</u></td><td><u>Value</u></td></tr> <tr> <td><u>EVALUATION</u></td><td><u>Worth</u></td></tr> <tr> <td>Discussion Forum Post #1</td><td>15%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Discussion Forum Feedback #1</td><td>10%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Major Essay</td><td>30%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Discussion Forum Post #2</td><td>15%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Discussion Forum Feedback #2</td><td>10%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Take Home Final Exam</td><td>20%</td></tr> </table>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>EVALUATION</u>	<u>Worth</u>	Discussion Forum Post #1	15%	Discussion Forum Feedback #1	10%	Major Essay	30%	Discussion Forum Post #2	15%	Discussion Forum Feedback #2	10%	Take Home Final Exam	20%
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<p>Reading List:</p>	<p>NOTE: Most of the readings are available on eClass. However, Beckett and MacDonald's plays are NOT available on eClass; you need to purchase or borrow these plays.</p> <p>**Beckett, Samuel. <i>Waiting for Godot</i>. Grove Press. ISBN 9780802144423</p> <p>Gay, John. <i>The Beggar's Opera. The Beggar's Opera.</i> (Available online via URL on eClass)</p> <p>Jonson, Ben. <i>Volpone</i> (Available online via URL on eClass)</p> <p>**Macdonald, Anne-Marie, <i>Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)</i>. Knopf Canada ISBN - 13:9780676971699</p> <p>Shakespeare, <i>Midsummer Night's Dream.</i> (Available online via URL on eClass)</p> <p>Shakespeare, <i>Measure for Measure</i> (Available online via URL on eClass)</p> <p>Taylor, Drew Hayden. <i>alterNatives.</i> (Available online via URL on eClass)</p> <p>Wilde, Oscar, <i>The Importance of Being Earnest.</i> (Available online via URL on eClass)</p> <p>Wycherley, William. <i>The Country Wife.</i> (Available online via URL on eClass)</p> <p>** Purchase or borrow these plays.</p>
<p>Open To:</p>	<p>Years 3 and 4</p>