

SU 2026

AP/EN 3191 3.00A (SU)	Comedy												
Course Director:	Name: Richardine Woodall Office: 728 Atkinson College Ext. 44594 e-mail: woodall@yorku.ca other information: office hours, web address, etc.												
Time:	Lecture: Tuesdays, 11:30am – 12:50pm Tutorials: Tuesdays, 1:30pm – 2:50pm & 3:30pm – 4:50pm												
Delivery Format:	LECTURE/TUTORIALS												
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, 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 border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>EVALUATION</u></th> <th><u>Worth</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2 Reflection Papers</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Major Essay</td> <td>30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Midterm Exam</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Participation</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final Exam</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>EVALUATION</u>	<u>Worth</u>	2 Reflection Papers	20%	Major Essay	30%	Midterm Exam	20%	Participation	10%	Final Exam	20%
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Reading List:	<p>Beckett, Samuel. <i>Waiting for Godot</i>. Grove Press. ISBN 9780802144423</p> <p>Congreve, William. <i>The Way of the World</i>. Dover Thrift Edition. ISBN 9780486277875</p> <p>Gay, John. <i>The Beggar's Opera</i>. Dover Thrift Edition. ISBN 9780486408880</p> <p>Jonson, Ben. <i>Volpone</i>. Dover Thrift Editions. ISBN 9780486280493</p> <p>Macdonald, Anne-Marie, <i>Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)</i>. Knopf Canada. ISBN - 13:9780676971699</p> <p>Shakespeare, <i>Measure for Measure</i>. Ed. Jonathan Crewe. The Pelican Shakespeare. ISBN 9780140714791</p> <p>Shakespeare, <i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i>. Ed. Russ Macdonald. ISBN 9780143128588</p> <p>Taylor, Drew Hayden. <i>alterNatives</i>. Talonbooks. ISBN 9780889224285</p> <p>Wilde, Oscar. <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>. Dover Thrift Editions. ISBN 9780486264783</p>
Open To:	Years 3 & 4