

Anoka-Ramsey Community College

THTR 1120: History of Comedy

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts

(Meets MnTC Goal 6)

A survey of significant eras of comedy in theatre and film that have shaped contemporary American performance comedy. Designed to increase understanding of how comedy has evolved throughout history and how comedy reflects cultural influences. Students will read, view and critique historic and modern comedies.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 01/12/2004 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Comic structure
2. Comic genres/styles
3. Greek comedy
4. Elizabethan comedy
5. Commedia dell'arte
6. Vaudeville
7. Silent film comedy
8. Contemporary American comedy

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. View a play or film and classify it according to comic structure and style
2. Identify examples of various comedic genres (farce, satire, black comedy, tragicomedy, etc.)
3. Explain the stylistic links between contemporary American comedy and the comedy of other historical periods
4. View a play or film and explain ways in which the performers and director may have interpreted the author's intent
5. Distinguish between accomplished comic and dramatic acting styles
6. Explain the influence of early theatrical naturalism (Stanislavski) on American comic acting
7. Explain the role of improvisation training in the development of contemporary American comic actors
8. Explain the role of television on the comic sensibilities of the American audience
9. Explain the social and political influences that shaped Greek comedy
10. Identify the primary characteristics of the comic plays of Aristophanes and explain their influence of subsequent comedy
11. Explain the social and political influences that shaped Elizabethan comedy
12. Identify the primary characteristics of the comic plays of Shakespeare and explain their influence on subsequent comedy
13. Explain the social and political influences that shaped commedia dell'arte
14. Identify the primary characteristics of commedia dell'arte performances and explain their influence on subsequent comedy
15. Explain the social and political influences that shaped vaudeville
16. Identify the primary characteristics of vaudeville comedy and explain their influence on subsequent comedy
17. Explain how vaudeville provided a stylistic transition in American entertainment from the stage to the screen
18. Trace the history of vaudeville through the end of the silent film era
19. Distinguish between the comic approaches of Chaplin, Keaton, and Laurel & Hardy
20. Define the term "screwball comedy" and explain its significance
21. Explain the social and political influences that shape contemporary American comedy
22. Express an informed, personal, critical reaction to comic elements of specific productions

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts

1. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
2. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
4. Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted