



**CMST285: American Humor**

**Spring 2017 OAS 5638 Online**

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**Office Hours by Appointment**

### **Course Description**

Surveys the history of American humor. Topics may include the Down East, Old Southwest, and Literary Comedian genres of the 19th century and the Purple Cow and Columnists humorists of the 20th century. Students may also analyze contemporary forms such as cartoons and stand-up comedy.

### **Course Textbook**

The Comic Offense from Vaudeville to Contemporary Comedy: Larry David, Tina Fey, Stephen Colbert, and Dave Chappelle

DESROCHERS

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ISBN-13: 978-1441160874

ISBN-10: 1441160876

Required

### **Course Goals**

**After completing this class, students should be able to:**

- Demonstrate an understanding of their own previously-held perspectives on the theme and explain how those perspectives may have changed.
- Demonstrate an understanding of trends in American thought and attitude regarding the theme.
- Discuss, orally or in writing, the theme showing the interrelation of historical events, literary works and social changes.
- Demonstrate the ability to synthesize information from various sources/media and communicate that insight effectively.

## Course Requirements

### Activities:

Every Monday through Thursday, there will be online-class activities designed to produce methods and/skills practiced. There are 20 points in activities each week, for a total of 220 points.

### Quizzes:

There will be quizzes each, for a total of 395 points. All answers can be found in the readings and are not timed.

### Essays/Joke Construction:

This class requires you to write a joke and a one page essay, which requires you to first analyze the idea of the comedian as the social assassin. 50 points and 50 points, for a total of 100 points.

### Late papers:

All papers and other assignments are due at the dates and times specified on Canvas. No late work will be accepted.

|            |                     |
|------------|---------------------|
| 2 essays   | 50 points each      |
| Quizzes    | 395 points          |
| Activities | 220 points          |
|            | 725 points possible |

### Arts & Humanities grading procedure:

|          |    |
|----------|----|
| 100 -93% | A  |
| 90-92%   | A- |
| 89-87%   | B+ |
| 86-83%   | B  |
| 82-80    | B- |
| 79-77    | C+ |
| 76-73    | C  |
| 72-70    | C- |
| 69-67    | D+ |
| 66-63    | D  |
| 62-60    | D- |
| 59%---   | F  |

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism, or academic dishonesty, is the act of using another writer's words or ideas as your own. Plagiarism "may take many forms, including, but not limited to, using a paper written by someone else, using printed sources word-for-word without proper documentation, and paraphrasing or summarizing the ideas of others without acknowledging the source. Plagiarism can also occur when non-written ideas are taken without documentation--using someone else's design or performance idea, for example. In short, plagiarism is passing off someone else's ideas, words, or images as your own; it amounts to intellectual theft--whether or not it was your intention to steal." Plagiarism in this course may result in a paper's failing grade, or further disciplinary action from the Dean of Student Success. Consecutive acts of plagiarism may result in a failing grade for the class.

**Cell phones or other electronic communication devices:**

During class time, please turn off your cell phones.

**Values Conflicts**

Essential to a liberal arts education is an open-minded tolerance for ideas and modes of expression that might conflict with one's personal values. By being exposed to such ideas or expressions, students are not expected to endorse or adopt them but rather to understand that they are part of the free flow of information upon which higher education depends.

To this end, you may find that class requirements may include engaging certain materials, such as books, films, and art work, which may, in whole or in part, offend you. These materials are equivalent to required texts and are essential to the course content. If you decline to engage the required material by not reading, viewing, or performing material you consider offensive, you will still be required to meet class requirements in order to earn credit. This may require responding to the content of the material, and you may not be able to fully participate in required class discussions, exams, or assignments.

**Classroom Behavior:**

The college's 'Affirmation of Inclusion' is posted in each class room and sets forth the expectation that we will all treat one another with respect and dignity regardless of whether or not we agree philosophically. This expectation is in line with the principle of free speech in a free society: we have the right to express unpopular ideas as long as we don't show disrespect for reasonable people who might believe otherwise. In an on-line course, you will be expressing ideas through the medium of the course site rather than face to face in the classroom. In that case, these expectations refer to the courtesy with which you communicate with one another through e-mails and e-discussions.

Part of this respect involves professional behavior toward the instructor, colleagues, and the class itself. Disruptive behavior is disrespectful behavior. The Division honors the right of its faculty to define "disruptive behavior," which often involves such things as arriving late, leaving early, leaving class and then returning, talking while others are trying to hear the instructor or their group

members, doing other homework in class, wearing earphones in class, bringing activated beepers, alarm watches, or cellular phones into class, inappropriate comments or gestures, etc. In on-line courses, “flaming” anyone in the class is also considered disruptive behavior. Such behavior interrupts the educational process. When you are in doubt about any behavior, consult your instructor during office hours: we recognize the judgment of the instructor as the final authority in these matters.

When disruptive behavior occurs, instructors will speak to or e-mail the students concerned. Those students are then responsible for ending the disruptions at once. Failure to do so may result in removal of the students from class.”

### **Important Links**

#### **Bellevue College E-mail and access to MyBC:**

All students registered for classes at Bellevue College are entitled to a network and e-mail account. Your student network account can be used to access your student e-mail, log in to computers in labs and classrooms, connect to the BC wireless network and log in to MyBC. To create your account, go to: <https://bellevuecollege.edu/sam> (Links to an external site.).

BC offers a wide variety of computer and learning labs to enhance learning and student success. Find current campus locations for all student labs by visiting the [Computing Services website. \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

#### **Disability Resource Center (DRC):**

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible.

If you are a person who requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc., please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.

The DRC office is located in B 132 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564 -4110. . . Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at [www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc) (Links to an external site.)

#### **Public Safety:**

The Bellevue College (BC) Public Safety Department’s well trained and courteous non-commissioned staff provides personal safety, security, crime prevention, preliminary investigations,

and other services to the campus community, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Their phone number is 425.564.2400. The Public Safety website is your one-stop resource for campus emergency preparedness information, campus closure announcements and critical information in the event of an emergency. Public Safety is located in K100 and on the web at: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/publicsafety/> ([Links to an external site.](#))

**Course Schedule:**

**See CANVAS**