

# **CES 285: Comedy in the U.S. Summer 2018**



**Instructor: Eric C. Davis**

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**Office Hours:** Online only

## **Course Catalog 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 and analyze how they have been used to cope with social-cultural inequities. Previously AMST 285.

## **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 Content**

This course includes provocative content and adult themes e.g. R-rated content (language, images, etc.) is necessary to examine course topics within an academic context. If you have any questions or concerns about course content or classroom climate, please contact the Instructor.

## **Textbooks:**

***The Comic Offense: From Vaudeville to Contemporary Comedy.***

**Rick DesRochers. Bloomsbury Press, 2014. ISBN: 978-1-4411-6087-4**

***Pretty/Funny: Women Comedians and Body Politics.* Linda Mizejewski.**

**University of Texas Press, 2015. ISBN: 978-1-4773-0760-1**

**Welcome and Intros; Review of Syllabus;**

## Course Modules

Welcome and Introductions

**READINGS:** Course Syllabus; Cohen and Richards Article

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Historical Perspectives

**READINGS:** The Comic Offense, Chapters 1 & 2  
Pretty/Funny, Introduction (p. 1-30)

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Why We Laugh: Gender/Sexual Identity

**READINGS:** The Comic Offense, Chapter 3  
Pretty/Funny, Chapters 1 & 2

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Political Commentary and Political (In)correctness

**READINGS:** The Comic Offense, Chapter 4  
Pretty/Funny, Chapter 3

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Why We Laugh: Race/Ethnicity

**READINGS:** The Comic Offense, Chapter 5; Epilogue  
Pretty/Funny, Chapters 4 & 5

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Now and the Future

**READINGS:** Pretty/Funny, Chapter 6

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## Course Requirements:

• Discussion Boards 360pts

There will be discussion boards posted weekly. Topics will be related to sports in the news, current events and selected films. Points per discussion will vary. See Canvas for details.

• Readings 240pts

- Students are required to submit bullet point notes from the textbooks. Notes should focus on the impact of comedic expression on society—particularly commentary on social and political issues related to race, social class, gender, etc.

• Why We Laugh Documentary Film screenings 200pts

- 2-3 page summary/reflection for each film we watch. See CANVAS for assignment details.

• Final Project 200pts

- Students will have the opportunity to do an in-depth analysis of their favorite comedian or comedy show. See CANVAS for assignment details.

### Grading:

There are **1000** points available in this class. Here is the grading scale:

950+pts = (4.0) A	720+pts = (2.3) C+	>560pts=(0.0) Fail
900+pts = (3.7) A-	690+pts = (2.0) C	
850+pts = (3.3) B+	650+pts = (1.7) C-	
800+pts = (3.0) B	600+pts = (1.3) D+	
750+pts = (2.7) B-	560+pts = (1.0) D	

### **Late Work Policy:**

Students are expected to turn in all coursework in a timely manner. That being said, Life Happens. Per the discretion of the Instructor, assignments that are turned in late could receive a 10% deduction per day for each day past the due date.

### **Bellevue College Email:**

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. 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.

### **Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing\***

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates.

The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

\*If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.

### **Incomplete**

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

### **F Grade**

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

### **Final Examination Schedule**

**\*\*\*\*\*There is no final exam in this course\*\*\*\*\***

### **Withdrawal From Class w/o receiving a "W"**

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by July 29, 2018. If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

### **Hardship Withdrawal**

Instructors may assign the grade of "HW" (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

### **Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:**

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.

If you are a student with a documented autism spectrum disorder, there is an additional access program available to you. Contact [asn@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:asn@bellevuecollege.edu) or 425.564.2764. ASN is located in the Library Media Center in D125.

[www.bellevuecollege.edu/autismspectrumnavigators/](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/autismspectrumnavigators/)

The DRC office is located in B132 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)

### **Public Safety and Emergencies**

Public Safety is located in the K building and can be reached at 425-564-2400 (easy to remember because it's the only office on campus open 24 hours a day—2400). Among other things, Public Safety serves as our Parking Permits, Lost and Found, and Emergency Notification center. Please ensure you are signed up to receive alerts through our campus alerting system by registering at RAVE Alert Registration

If you work late and are uneasy about going to your car, Public Safety will escort you to your vehicle. To coordinate this, please phone ahead and let Public Safety know when and where you will need an escort.

Please familiarize yourself with the emergency postings by the door of every classroom and know where to go in the event of an evacuation. Your instructor will be asked if anyone might still be in the building, so check in before you do anything else. Emergency responders will search for anyone unaccounted for.

If a major emergency occurs, please follow these three rules:

- 1) Take directions from those in charge of the response -We all need to be working together.
- 2) Do not get in your car and leave campus (unless directed to) - Doing so will clog streets and prevent emergency vehicles from entering the scene. Instead, follow directions from those in charge.
- 3) In an emergency, call 911 first, then Public Safety.

Please do not hesitate to call Public Safety if you have safety questions or concerns at any time. You may also visit the Public Safety web page for answers to your questions.

### **Affirmation of Inclusion**

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination.

We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

### **Religious Holidays**

Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or any other assignments as a consequence of their religious observance should be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which they will be absent, preferably at the beginning of the term. Students who are absent on days of examinations or class assignments should be offered an opportunity to make up the work without penalty (if they have previously arranged to be absent), unless it can be demonstrated that a makeup opportunity would constitute an unreasonable burden on a member of the faculty. Should disagreement arise over what constitutes an unreasonable burden or any element of this policy, parties involved should consult the department chair, or Dean.

### **College Anti-Discrimination Statement (Title IX)**

Bellevue College does not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity; color; creed; national origin; sex; marital status; sexual orientation; age; religion; genetic information; the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability; gender identity or veteran status in educational programs and activities which it operates.

For further information and contacts, please consult College Anti-Discrimination Statements.

### **NOTES:**