

Fall/Winter 2017-2018

AP/EN 3193 6.0B (Y)

Studies in Satire

Course Director:

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Delivery Format:

Seminar

Time:

Seminar: Wednesdays 8:30-11:30am

Description:

The election of Donald Trump as President of the United States has ushered in a new golden age of Satire. Satire flourishes in times of authoritarian rule as a vital form of social commentary. This course focuses on ancient types of satire, the animal fable, and the Roman forms of Horatian, Juvenalian and Menippean satire, and explores their afterlives from the Renaissance grotesque to 21st Century outrage. Over the course of the year, we will probe the rhetorical techniques of satire in a wide range of prose, drama, verse, film and visual media set in their historical and cultural contexts alongside critical texts concerned with the political and literary functions of satire.

Learning Objectives

Students will learn how satire works formally by closely examining the rhetorical strategies and devices that operate in visual and literary examples. Students will learn to recognize the crucial relationship between form, content, and historical context that is central not only to understanding satire, but also to evaluating literary works generally. Importantly, students will develop and refine critical thinking skills and writing techniques.

Category:

B

Area:

6

Period:

N/A

Historical Requirement:

Period I (pre 1700) 3 Credits; Period II (1700-1900) 3 Credits

Requirements:

First Term: Close reading 15% (1000 words); Critical Essay (1500 words) 20%
Second Term: Essay or Satire proposal 10% (750 words); Final essay or Satire (2000 words) 25%; Final exam 20%
Tutorial participation 10%
Tutorial assignments may be set by individual tutorial leaders

Reading List:

Required Texts (subject to change)

Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*

Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

George Orwell, *Animal Farm*

Joe Orton, *What the Butler Saw*

Angela Carter: *The Bloody Chamber*

Peter Carey, *Fat Man in History*

Sherman Alexie, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian*

Salman Rushdie, *East, West*

Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games*

Additional readings will be available on the course moodle website.

Open To:

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