

Fall/Winter 2019-2020

AP/EN 1202 6.0A (Y)

Satire

Course Director:

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Delivery Format:

Lecture

Time:

Lecture: Tuesdays 8:30-10:30am
Tutorials: Tuesdays 10:30-11:30am, 11:30am-12:30pm. 12:30-1:30pm

Description:

Satire is an art form that uses ridicule and defamiliarization to expose folly and criticize dominant cultural trends. This course introduces students to the history of satire through a chronological survey of key satirical writings. We will examine the many techniques that satirists have employed through the ages, as well as the social contexts that inspired their rebellious humour. We will focus on three ancient kinds of satire (Horatian, Juvenalian, and Menippean) and explore how they persisted from classical times to the present day. Satire will be observed operating within a broad range of forms and media, from poetry, novels, and short stories, to films, TV, and the Internet. The satires will be approached from a craft perspective and an audience-response perspective. In other words, we will consider both how the satires are written (or otherwise created) and the specific reactions they elicit from readers or viewers.

Learning Objectives:

Students will learn about the important kinds, devices, and targets of satire. Students will also acquire a good understanding of the historical development of satire and the key issues that attend the creation and reception of satiric texts. More broadly, students will develop and refine their close reading, critical thinking, and essay writing skills. Henceforth, students will appreciate, and possibly create, contemporary satire.

Category:

N/A

Historical Requirement:

N/A

Requirements:

Essay 1 (in tutorial) 10%
Essay 2 (5-6 pages) 20%
Essay 3 (7-8 pages) 30%
Final exam 25%
Tutorial participation 15%

Reading List:

Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey* (Oxford)
Edwin A. Abbott, *Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions* (Dover)
Anita Loos, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (Penguin)
George Orwell, *Animal Farm* (Penguin)
Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale* (Penguin)
Salman Rushdie, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* (Penguin)
Thomas King, *One Good Story, That One* (HarperCollins)
Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games* (Scholastic)

Links to additional shorter readings will be posted on the course Moodle site.

In addition, students will be responsible for Get Out (dir. Peele) and another satiric film (TBA). The films will be screened in class and are also available in Scott's Sound and Moving Image Library.

Open To:

Years 1, 2, 3, 4