Texts and Contexts: Contemporary Satire and Social Change

ENGL 2000-PW1 (online)

Professor Vivian Papp

Summer Session 2018

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“Satire is a sort of glass wherein beholders do generally discover everybody’s face but their own; which is the chief reason for that kind reception it meets with in the world, and that so very few are offended with it.” Jonathan Swift

Course Description/Objectives:

Most people love a good joke, as long as the joke is not at their expense. From the writings of the ancient Greeks to television shows like South Park, satire has been used to point out problems in society. This course will track the progress and effects of satire from its “heyday” in the Eighteenth Century to today. How has satire evolved? How can satire be used to elicit real lasting change? How does satire navigate through systems set in place to monitor and restrict free speech? These are some of the questions we will be considering throughout the course.

Along with reading and discussing several literary works, we will also watch films and videos and view artwork which will provide contextual background to our main readings. In this EP2 course, you will not only learn to identify numerous distinct themes and components that link our readings together, but will also be able to demonstrate how satire has evolved into the state in which we find it today.

The primary goal of this course is for you to be able to write about and discuss these different texts following a common theme or themes—and to move beyond summarizing plots in your essays. In other words, you’ll start reading and analyzing literature from an academic point of view rather than (or in addition to) reading for pleasure.
Primary reading, secondary research, and class participation is required.

“Attendance” Policy:

Since this class will be conducted entirely online, there will be no traditional class meetings. However, there will be two discussion board posts each week and your participation will count as attendance (and also be graded for content). If you miss more than 4 posts, you risk failing the course.

Required Texts and Readings:

All of the readings will be made available to you on Blackboard with the following exceptions. Please make sure to get the required editions by ordering with the correct ISBN:


Grading:

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<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Posts</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>Midterm Essay</td>
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<td>Final Essay</td>
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Discussion Board Posts:

There will be two weekly discussion board posts-each forum will be graded on a scale from 0-5. Each Tuesday and Friday you will be responsible for responding to the provided prompt with 2-5 paragraphs and additionally must comment on at least 2 of your peers’ responses. Any post which does not meet the minimum requirement will receive a 0. More detailed information will be available on BB. These posts account for 30% of your grade.
Quizzes:
Every Friday there will be a quiz on the material covered in the unit that week. The quizzes will take several forms: multiple choice, fill-in, short essays, etc. Quizzes account for 20% of your grade.

Essay 1—Midterm Essay:
You will be required to write a 3-5 page essay which responds to one of several starter questions. You must choose one of the questions and respond in 3-5 pages. You must include at least 2 research items which you find on your own. More detailed information will be available on BB. This essay accounts for 20% of your grade.

Essay 2—Final Paper:
Essay 2 will be the longest and stands for your final exam. You will be required to prepare a presentation (powerpoint or short video) on your final paper which will be submitted as part of the final assignment. The subject of your final paper will be your own choice; however, you must have a conference with me to discuss your ideas before you begin writing. More detailed information will be available on BB. This final paper accounts for 30% of your grade.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
I will not stand plagiarism, lying, or cheating in any form.
☑ Do not simply copy and paste a text from the web to your paper(s) without proper documentation. Quoting and citing outside sources makes you look better and smarter as a scholar, and importantly, a solid bibliography will benefit your grade in this course.
☑ Do not simply change/rearrange a few words in a source sentence in order to avoid citing the source. This is plagiarizing the source’s idea.
☑ If you obtain any information (words, phrases, ideas, sentences, etc.) from a source other than your own brain, that information needs to be cited.
☑ Self-plagiarism (exists!): if you wrote a paper in previous years that happens to “work” for this course in some form or another, you need to inform me of your intention of re-submitting your previous work. You must do this well before the paper due-date.
☑ If you ARE NOT SURE what activities constitute plagiarism, please get in touch with me BEFORE you write, or AS you are writing. Once a paper has been
submitted, I am generally very unsympathetic to pleas of ignorance and/or forgetfulness regarding citation.

Make yourself aware of Fordham’s guidelines on plagiarism. The risks are not worth taking. Review the policy:
https://www.fordham.edu/info/22218/essential_resources/3030/academic_integrity_policy

Disability Services:
Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, all students, with or without disabilities, are entitled to equal access to the programs and activities of Fordham University. If you believe that you have a disabling condition that may interfere with your ability to participate in the activities, coursework, or assessment of the object of this course, you may be entitled to accommodations. To take advantage of these accommodations, you must schedule an appointment to speak with someone at the Office of Disability Services (Rose Hill – O’Hare Hall, Lower Level, x0655; Lincoln Center – Lowenstein 207, x6282).

Class Schedule
(This list is tentative and subject to change)

Unit 1: An Introduction to Satire

Week of 5/29: Horace and Juvenal (DB post due 6/1 @ 6 pm)

Week of 6/5: Jonathan Swift “A Modest Proposal” (DB posts due 6/5 and 6/8)

Week of 6/12: Excerpts from Laurence Sterne’s A Sentimental Journey (DB posts 6/12 and 6/15)
Unit II: Satire in the 20th Century

Week of 6/19: Monty Python and the Holy Grail (DB posts 6/19 and 6/22)

Week of 6/26: Caryl Churchill Serious Money (DB posts 6/26 and 6/29)

MIDTERM ESSAY I DUE JUNE 29 @ 6 PM

Week of 7/3: Satire in Music (DB posts 7/3 and 7/6)

Unit III: Satire in the 21st Century

Week of 7/10: Prez: Corndog-in-chief (DB posts due 7/10 and 7/13)

Week of 7/17: Saturday Night Live (DB posts 7/17 and 7/20)

Week of 7/24: South Park and The Simpsons (DB posts 7/24 and 7/27)

Week of 7/31: “Fake” News and Social Media (DB posts 7/31 and 8/3)

Week of 8/6: FINAL PAPER/PRESENTATION DUE AUGUST 6 @ 9 AM