



CRIT 203

PERSPECTIVES ON THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF HUMOUR

COURSE OUTLINE

2007



CRIT 203 - PERSPECTIVES ON THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF HUMOUR COURSE OUTLINE 2007

CRIT 203 is a **Comparative Literature** course with **3** classes per week, consisting of lectures and seminar discussions. It runs for the **second trimester**. The course is worth **22 points**, the course reference number is **CRN 15174**. Please read through this material very carefully in the first week of the course, and refer to it regularly.

Course Co-ordinator: Dr. Marco Sonzogni Italian, vZ 504, tel: 463-6284

Course Administrator: Nina Cuccurullo vZ 610, tel: 463-5293

Lecturers in Course: see Timetable

Lecture Times: Monday in HM (Hugh Mackenzie) LT003 and Tuesday and Wednesday in HM (Hugh Mackenzie) LT104, 11pm-12noon.

Dr. Sonzogni vZ 504, Tel. 463-6284, e-mail: marco.sonzogni@vuw.ac.nz is available for consultation on academic or administrative matters relating to the course on **Tuesdays**, from **1pm to 2pm**, and on **Wednesdays** from **12noon to 1pm**. Alternative times can be arranged by phone or email.

The **CRIT 203 Noticeboard** is in the corridor between room **vZ 614** and **vZ 615**. Important information is posted on it, please check it regularly.

Course Aims and Objectives

This course introduces students to the study of comedy and humour in text and performance, paying particular attention to the development of comedy in Europe. The course will offer a broad-based introduction to theoretical approaches and to the various forms and techniques particular to the study of humour and comedy. Various media including film, comic books, opera and theatre that underscore the cultural importance of humour and its impact on European culture will be explored.

Set Texts

Course material will be distributed to students by the course-coordinator and lecturers ahead of the respective unit. It can also be collected from the Administrator.

TIMETABLE	DATE	ACADEMIC UNITS	TOPIC	LECTURER
WEEK 1				
Lecture 1:	09 Jul 07	Introduction: Course overview	<i>Sociological Theories of Humour</i>	Marco Sonzogni
Lecture 2:	10 Jul 07	Theory of Comedy (Sociology)		Mike Lloyd
Lecture 3:	11 Jul 07	Tutorial		Marco Sonzogni
WEEK 2				
Lecture 4:	16 Jul 07	Theory of Comedy (Gender/Power)	"Comedy, politics and social difference"	Sue Abel
Lecture 5:	17 Jul 07	Cultural and literary perspectives (I)	<i>Fart Forward: From Hell to Heaven</i>	Marco Sonzogni
Lecture 6:	18 Jul 07	Cultural and literary perspectives (II)	Translating Humour	Jean Anderson
WEEK 3				
Lecture 7:	23 Jul 07	Classics	Menander and Greek New Comedy	Judy Deuling
Lecture 8:	24 Jul 07	Classics	Plautus and Roman Comedy	Judy Deuling
Lecture 9:	25 Jul 07	Tutorial		Judy Deuling
WEEK 4				
Lecture 10:	30 Jul 07	English	Chaucer's <i>The Shipman's Tale</i>	Peter Whiteford
Lecture 11:	31 Aug 07	English	Chaucer's <i>The Shipman's Tale</i>	Peter Whiteford
Lecture 12:	01 Aug 07	Tutorial		Peter Whiteford
WEEK 5				
Lecture 13:	06 Aug 07	German	Freud	Richard Millington
Lecture 14:	07 Aug 07	German	Freud	Richard Millington
Lecture 15:	08 Aug 07	Tutorial		Richard Millington

WEEK 6

Lecture 16: 13 Aug 07 French
Lecture 17: 14 Aug 07 French
Lecture 18: 15 Aug 07 Tutorial

Jacques Tati
Jacques Tati

Jean-Marc Lecaudé
Jean-Marc Lecaudé
Jean-Marc Lecaudé

MID-TRIMESTER BREAK

WEEK 7

Lecture 19: 03 Sep 07 Spanish
Lecture 20: 04 Sep 07 Spanish
Lecture 21: 05 Sep 07 Tutorial

Almodovar
Almodovar

Carolina Miranda
Carolina Miranda
Carolina Miranda

WEEK 8

Lecture 22: 10 Sep 07 Italian
Lecture 23: 11 Sep 07 Italian
Lecture 24: 12 Sep 07 Tutorial

Pirandello's *On Humour*
Dante: *Inferno XXI*

Marco Sonzogni
Marco Sonzogni
Marco Sonzogni

WEEK 9

Lecture 25: 17 Sep 07 Russian
Lecture 26: 18 Sep 07 Tutorial
Lecture 27: 19 Sep 07 Asian languages and cultures

Gogol
Humour in Japan

Richard Millington
Richard Millington
Fujio Kano

WEEK 10

Lecture 28: 24 Sep 07 Indigenous Comedy
Lecture 29: 25 Sep 07 Comedy in theatre
Lecture 30: 26 Sep 07 Comedy in music

Indigenous comic themes and texts
Black humour: Beckett's *Godot*
Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*

Alice Te Punga Somerville
Matt Wagner
Allan Badley

WEEK 11

Lecture 31: 01 Oct 07 Comedy in art
Lecture 32: 02 Oct 07 Comedy in film
Lecture 33: 03 Oct 07 Comedy in television

The Laughing Audience: Caricatures
Silent Film & Charlie Chaplin
Sitcoms

David Maskill
Séan Redmond
Joost de Bruin

WEEK 12

Lecture 34:	08 Oct 07	Comedy in television	Sitcoms	Joost de Bruin
Lecture 35:	09 Oct 07	Comedy in religious studies	Transgressive Comedy (I)	Art Buehler
Lecture 36:	10 Oct 07	Comedy in religious studies	Transgressive Comedy (II)	Art Buehler

3-HOUR FINAL WRITTEN EXAMINATION to be held during the examination period (19 October – 10 November 2007)

Estimated Workload

Approximately 15 hours per week including the three formal classes; but this will vary from student to student. The most vital thing is that students keep abreast of the course by reading the set texts in advance of lectures and writing the prescribed essays on time.

Assessment Objectives

The assessment programme is designed to evaluate the extent of the student's understanding of the themes and texts studied, and the depth and sensitivity of the student's response to those themes and texts as shown in the discipline of essay-writing, and in examination answers. The essays also provide a means of assessing the student's ability to research and think on a topic, organise thoughts and insights, and express them in a lucid, well-documented way. To help them in this, students will be given detailed *Notes on the Presentation of Essays*.

Assessment Schedule

CRIT 203 is assessed by:

- (a) Two essays of 1500-2000 words on prescribed texts, worth 25% each.
- (b) A final three-hour examination, worth 50% (date to be advised)

To pass **CRIT 203** students must meet the mandatory course requirements and achieve at least an average C over all assessment. Students who gain at least 50% of the course marks, but fail the course due to not satisfying a mandatory course requirement, will receive a K grade. Students who gain less than 50% will receive a D or an E grade, whether or not they have completed the mandatory course requirements. The relation of grades to percentages, for any work and for the course as a whole, is as follows: **A+ (85-100%), A (80-84%), A- (75-79%), B+ (70-74%), B (65-69%), B- (60-64%), C+ (55-59%), C (50-54%), D (40-49%), E (0-39%)**.

The Essays

Before beginning, please read the *Notes on the Presentation of Essays*. Note in particular that care should be devoted not only to the essay's content and organization, but also to its presentation: grammar, spelling and punctuation are all important and will be taken into account in the assessment.

The essays must be entirely the individual student's own work. Any sign that this is not so will be investigated. See the statement on Plagiarism below, under "General University Policies and Statutes". The penalties for copying the work of others or unacknowledged sections from books depend on the severity of the offence. They range from a warning, a warning with penalisation, to the awarding of a zero mark for the assignment concerned, to failed Terms. In serious cases the matter will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee of the University, and the student will then be liable to the sanctions set out in the Statute on Conduct.

Essays *must* be handed in on time. Students prevented by uncontrollable circumstances from completing an essay on time must, **in advance of the deadline**, formally request an extension of time from the Course Co-ordinator, Dr. Sonzogni (vZ 504). In cases of illness, accident or bereavement, this can be done by telephone (04-463-6284). Essays submitted late without explanation will have penalty marks deducted at the rate of two marks a day. In the case of extreme lateness, the essay will not be marked and the student will not receive Terms (see below).

Essay Topics & Deadlines

All efforts will be made to provide information relating to essay topics as early as possible and this will be posted on Blackboard.

Essay deadlines are as follows:

Essay 1: to be posted through the CRIT & EURO slot to the left of the reception desk on Floor 6 of von Zedlitz by 5 pm on **Friday, 17 August**.

Essay 2: to be posted through the CRIT & EURO slot to the left of the reception desk on Floor 6 of von Zedlitz by 5 pm on **Friday, 21 September**.

NB Due to university regulations, 75% of the course portfolio is to be completed and assessed by the end of Week 9. Every effort will be made to apply this regulation with as much flexibility as possible compatible with the interdisciplinary nature of this course as well as with specific needs of the students.

The examination will cover the whole course, and will consist of one three-hour paper divided into two sections. It is an open book examination, thus texts are permitted in the examination room.

Students will be required to answer four questions: **2 from Section 1 and 2 from Section 2**. **Section 1** will cover topics and texts analysed in the first half of the trimester, **Weeks 1-6**, and section 2 will cover topics and texts analysed in the second half of the trimester, **Weeks 7-12**. All questions are of equal value, worth 25% each.

Terms Requirements

The minimum course requirements which must be satisfied in order to complete the course are: regular attendance at classes (a minimum of 80%), and satisfactory completion of the two essays and the examination. Unless notified to the contrary, students may assume they have been awarded Terms, i.e. have met the mandatory course requirements.

General University policies and statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hard copy or under 'About Victoria' on the VUW home page at www.victoria.ac.nz.

Student and staff conduct

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps are to be taken if there is a complaint. For information about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor or refer to the statute on the VUW policy website at: www.victoria.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct

The Policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at: www.victoria.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct

Academic grievances

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned; class representatives may be able to help you in this. If you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean; VUWSA Education Coordinators are available to assist in this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievance Policy which is published on the VUW website at: www.victoria.ac.nz/policy/academicgrievances

Academic integrity and plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning,
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course,
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html

Students with Impairments (see Appendix 3 of the Assessment Handbook)

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities the same opportunity as other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the course coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively, you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services (DSS) to discuss your individual needs and the available options and support on a confidential basis. DSS are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building; telephone: 463-6070 email: disability@vuw.ac.nz

The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person is in the relevant prospectus or can be obtained from the School Office or DSS.

Student Support

Staff at Victoria want students to have positive learning experiences at the University. Each faculty has a designated staff member who can either help you directly if your academic progress is causing you concern, or quickly put you in contact with someone who can. In the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences the support contacts are **Dr Allison Kirkman, Murphy Building, room 407** and **Dr Stuart Brock, Murphy Building, room 312**. Assistance for specific groups is also available from the Kaiwawao Māori, Manaaki Pihipihinga or Victoria International.

Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme

This programme offers:

- Academic mentoring for all Māori & Pacific students at all levels of undergraduate study for the faculties of Commerce & Administration and Humanities & Social Sciences. Contact Manaaki-Pihipihinga-Programme@vuw.ac.nz or phone 463 6015 to register for Humanities & Social Science mentoring and 463 8977 to register for mentoring for Commerce and Administration courses
- Postgraduate support network for the above faculties, which links students into all of the post grad activities and workshops on campus and networking opportunities
- Pacific Support Coordinator who can assist Pacific students with transitional issues, disseminate useful information and provide any assistance needed to help students achieve. Contact; Pacific-Support-Coord@vuw.ac.nz or phone 463 5842.

Manaaki Pihipihinga is located at: 14 Kelburn Parade, back court yard, Room 109 D (for Humanities mentoring & some first year Commerce mentoring) or Room 210 level 2 west wing railway station Pipitea (commerce mentoring space). Māori Studies mentoring is done at the marae.

Student Services

In addition, the Student Services Group (email: student-services@vuw.ac.nz) is available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/

VUWSA employs Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office (tel. 463-6983 or 463-6984, email at education@vuwsa.org.nz) is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building.