

LMC 2400
Introduction to Media Studies
“Satire and Historical Media”

M, T, W, Th, F 9:30-12:00

Professor Aaron Santesso (asantesso3@mail.gatech.edu)

Office Hours: by appointment.

This course offers an introduction to media studies by examining the way in which satire has been presented and shaped by various forms of media over the past three hundred years. Satire, perhaps more than any other genre, has proved extremely adaptable to new media, equally at ease in poetry and pamphlets in the eighteenth century, political prints and caricatures in the nineteenth century, and film, television and various digital forms in the twentieth century and today. How is “satire,” as a genre, different when it appears in print and film? Can we really talk about “A Modest Proposal,” Cruikshank’s prints, and TikTok memes as part of the same project? Do different forms of media play up different aspects of satire itself? Does satire change in performance? How has satire changed in the age of “fake news” and AI slop? We will analyze various satirical works, and discuss a number of media theories, from the Toronto School to recent work on digital media.

Core Area/Attributes: This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Humanities area. Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas.

This course will help master course content, and support students’ broad academic and career goals. This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic, and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance, and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

Ethical Reasoning; Information Literacy; Intercultural Competence

Assignments:

Written work includes one long paper (around 8 pages) and one group project as well as a series of three quizzes. All assignments must be completed to attain a passing grade. **Participation will count towards the final grade.**

Essays must be received by email by the beginning of class time on the due date. Late papers will not be accepted. Any material in a paper not composed by the author, or borrowed without attribution, will be considered plagiarized. **Plagiarism is a serious offence** and will be dealt with according to the GT Academic Honor Code. **When in doubt, use quotation marks and cite sources.** Sanctions for plagiarism can include receiving a failing grade in the course or, in serious cases, expulsion from the university.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will learn to analyze and interpret works of film, literature, and new media.
2. Students will learn how to apply a variety of social, political, and philosophical theories.
3. Students will learn the traditions and conventions of various forms media.
4. Students will become familiar with the way historical and cultural forces shape media production.
5. Students will be able to organize and express information clearly and accurately.

Texts:

Loos, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (ISBN-13: 978-0141180694); Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (ISBN-13: 978-0486264783)

Disability Issues:

Georgia Tech offers accommodations to students with genuine and documented disabilities. If you need such accommodations, please make an appointment with the ADAPTS office.

Academic Honesty/Integrity:

Any material in a paper not composed by the author, or borrowed without attribution, will be considered plagiarized. **Plagiarism is a serious offence** and will be dealt with according to the Academic Honor Code. (<http://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code>). **When in doubt, use quotation marks and cite sources.** Sanctions for plagiarism can range from a failing grade in the course to expulsion.

This course is meant in part to improve and evaluate your writing ability. For this reason, for the purposes of this class, **any student found to have used AI technologies or programs to compose part or all of any submitted work will face the same penalties as a student who submits plagiarized work** (i.e. a failing grade in the course). To repeat: AI-generated work will be treated as equivalent to plagiarized work.

Grading:

Participation	15%	Long Paper	35%
Quizzes	25%	Group Project	25%

Reading Schedule:

May

	18	Introduction	
Oral Literature	19	Classical Poetry; Folk Tales (in class)	
Art 1	20	Painting and Prints (Bruegel, Hogarth, Gilray, Goya, etc).	
Print 1.	21	Swift, "Modest Proposal"; Defoe, "The Shortest Way"; DeQuincey, On Murder Considered as one of the Fine Arts"; Twain, "To the Person Sitting in Darkness"; Schuyler, "Our Greatest Gift" [CANVAS]	Quiz 1
Drama	22	Wilde, <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>	
	25	HOLIDAY	
Print 2	26	Loos, <i>Gentlemen Prefer Blondes</i>	
Comics/Art 2	27	Moore, <i>Top 10</i> ; Simpson, <i>Megaton Man</i> ; etc. [excerpts, on CANVAS]; Photography (Avedon, etc.); Modern Painting (Wood, Grosz, etc.)	Quiz 2
Film 1 / Music	28	From Silent to Sound [selected film excerpts, in class]; Classical (Shostakovich; Dello Joio, etc.); Popular (American and International pop, etc.)	
	29	Writing Seminar / Workshop	

June

Radio/Sculp/Arch	1	Selected programs (Goon Show, etc.); Haussman, Cerny, etc; Krumweide; Estudio 3.14; Duchamp, Banksy, etc.	
Film 2.	2	Politics and Satire: <i>Dr. Strangelove & The Candidate</i>	Quiz 3
TV/Dance/Digital	3	Selected programs and choreographies (Graham, drag ballet, etc.); interactive film (<i>Bandersnatch</i> , etc.); websites and selected video games (Takeshi's Castle, etc.)	
	4	Presentation Workshop	
	5	Group Presentations	

FINAL PAPER DUE