INSTRUCTOR: Chris LaMont  
OFFICE: Dixie Gammage Hall, 217  
E-MAIL: clamont@asu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study and analysis course of Great Comedy Films with an emphasis on the process of how comedy works, the different types of comedy films, and comedy trends from the beginning of cinema through current day.

We also profile some of the comic geniuses through film history, and view and dissect some of the major films ever created. The American Film Institute’s Great Comedy Films list (aka 100 Greatest Laughs) is used as a reference guide for the class.

There are some of you that may complain that the films that are shown in this class aren’t more current. The AFI list only goes until 2000 – so great movies like “The Hangover Part 3”, Adam Sandler’s “Blended” or “Alvin and the Chipmunks Part 4 – Road Chip” aren’t going to be screened.

COURSE FORMAT:

• This class is an “on-line” class. It means that the class is delivered with almost everything you need through this thing called the “internet.” I’ve checked it out and it’s pretty sweet. And I like using “air quotes” when I talk.

• Some of the films that are assigned may not be available through the ASU Online class interface, but can still be streamed online through alternative methods such as Itunes, Netflix and Hulu for a small fee.
THE 405 – FILM: GREAT COMEDY FILMS

SYLLABUS  SLN# 20705 / 20381  SPRING A- 2016

• The class is divided into Four (4) Units, with Three (3) Sections each, for a total of Twelve (12) Sections. Think of them as chapters in a book. Each Unit takes the student (“You”) through the magic of comedy films in a somewhat chronological order.

• Each Section has a Lecture, Film, Quiz and Reflection. You will need to listen (and watch) each of the lectures. Each lecture is broken into different parts. There are ticket stubs underneath the lecture windows. They are listed Part 1, Part 2, sometimes there is a Part 3. Click the ticket stub and listen to that part of the Lecture.

• Then, there is a feature-length film linked to each of the Twelve Parts of the class. You are free to get the films from Netflix or some other way of watching the film - instead of watching it through the interface. Watch the film.

• Then you need to go to the Reflection Question and then the Quiz at the end of the Section. Even if you saw the movie before, you should watch it again. It gets funnier every time you see it. We promise. And since most of the Reflections and Quizzes are questions directly related to the films, you ensure your chances of doing better on these graded assessments by actually watching the movies.

• So the Order You Should Be Doing This is “Listen (and Watch) the Lecture, Watch the Movie, Answer the Reflection Question, Do the Quiz” - These Units and the Sections will ALL OPEN at the beginning of the Session, but Units will close periodically during the semester, based upon the semester’s academic calendar.

• For all Units except for Unit 3, Section 1 and Unit 4, Section 3, there are ten (10) “Reflection Question”(s) regarding the topics and films discussed.
• Your participation in the Reflection Question will be scored as part of an on-going assessment of your retention and processing skills. You will need to 1) ANSWER THE QUESTION and 2) SUBMIT IT AS YOUR FINAL ANSWER WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED IT.

• Points are given based on clarity, structure and communication of strong ideas and educated opinion. So you can’t get a robot to do it for you. PLEASE LIMIT YOUR REFLECTION ANSWERS TO 25 - 50 WORDS

• At the end of each Section, there will ALSO be a structured knowledge assessment that we in the academic world call a “Quiz.” These “Quizzes” test you on what you have learned in the particular Section. Since there are points assessed for each of these, doing well on the “quizzes” will ensure that you will “pass the class.”

• Are you still reading this? Just checking.

MAJOR NOTE ABOUT THE FILMS THAT ARE SCREENING IN THE CLASS:

Because of copyright issues, ASU Online cannot show all of the films that are required to watch in the class. These films can be watched through an alternative computer-based viewing system, such as Netflix, I-tunes, Amazon or Hulu. They are the newer films that will be found in Units 3 & 4.
They are: The Graduate, This is Spinal Tap, and There’s Something About Mary.

It is each student’s responsibility to watch the films that are assigned in the class. You really should. Actually you may try and be clever and bluff your way through it. It never works. You have been warned.

REQUIRED READING:

You will not need to purchase a textbook for this course. Use that money to pay for those three films you have to stream / watch out of class.

CONTENT:

Together we will understand the great comedy films of the last century. The different types of comedy films, the major players over the last hundred years in comic cinema and what makes a comedy film will be thoroughly discussed.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

All necessary and appropriate sanctions will be issued to all parties involved with plagiarizing any and all course work. Plagiarism and any other forms of academic dishonesty that is in violation with the Student Code of Conduct will not be tolerated. For more information. Please see the ASU Student Academic Integrity Policy: http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity
SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:

To request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact the ASU Disability Resource Center (DRC) http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc/#; 480-965-1234; TDD: 480-965-9000. This is a very important step as accommodations may be difficult to make retroactively.

If you have a letter from their office indicating that you have a disability which requires academic accommodations, in order to assure that you receive your accommodations in a timely manner, please present this documentation to the instructor no later than the end of the first week of the semester so that your needs can be addressed effectively.

WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE:

If you wish to withdraw from this course, it is your responsibility to do so. Course registration changes can be processed through My ASU: http://my.asu.edu but you need to withdraw pretty quick. Go to the Academic Calendar and check out the deadline.

IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT THE CLASS:

• Some of the films shown in this class will contain language that is considered obscene or profane, scenes that are graphically explicit in portraying violent or sexual acts. And that’s just my lectures.

• Also, some films could be in black and white, foreign with God-forbid - subtitles, and may represent ideas, lifestyles or practices that are considered immoral or amoral by some standards.
• And the language - Good heavens! Some of these films may say words that are considered “Dirty.” I will not go into detail, but it could be pretty shocking.

• Also since this is a course on Great Comedy Films, some of the humorous acts portrayed in the motion pictures we will study could offend particularly sensitive students.

• Pratfalls, sex, bodily functions/excrement/fluids, sarcasm, sex, animal humor, stuttering, racism, genderism, ageism, politics, religion, drugs, alcohol, sex (did I already say sex?)—all topics can be explored in the comic medium. And you may not like this!

• Also Chris LaMont may be one of the most vital instructors at the University, but some of his comments can be considered overly sarcastic, critical, annoying, ironic, cynical, sardonic and wry. He may say things that shock you! It could be scandalous!

• Seriously, he might be waaay too annoying for you. This could be another stumbling block for your full appreciation of this educational experience. He also tries to be funny sometimes. That’s when it gets tough to stomach. What we have to do to better ourselves…

Please consider these cautions and decide whether this class is for you.

If not, you may wish to withdraw at this time.

------------------

Now back to our regularly scheduled syllabus –
COURSE GRADING:

This course is graded on the scale system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POINTS AVAILABLE</th>
<th>GRADE SCALE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500 - 490</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>489 - 460</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>459 - 450</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>449 - 440</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>439 - 420</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>419 - 400</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>399 - 390</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>389 - 360</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>359 - 311</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>310 - 0</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MORE INFO

The math here is a little challenging. Stay with me on this one.

There are TWELVE QUIZZES, each worth up to 20 (twenty) points for a grand total of 180 points available. Which means each question is worth 4 points.

• Also as part of each Unit, the Instructor will pose a Reflection Question, querying your thought processes. Your responses will be evaluated on content, communication and understanding.

• The Reflection Question will be available for a LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME, just like the Quizzes are. If you do not post a response within the allotted time, you will lose an opportunity to earn points.
Your response to the Reflection Question is worth up to 16 (sixteen) points for a grand total of 160 (one hundred points available.)

• Again, I will remind you to limit your answers in the Reflection Questions to 75 words. Think of it as a comprehensive tweet with content that actually is important, instead of what you ate for lunch today. Longer or shorter Answers will result in a point deductions.

• And at the end of the course, there is the FINAL EXAM. Oh, yeah. That’s a toughie. You just can’t show up on the last day without at least going through the course.

• The questions may include true/false, multiple-choice, fill in the blank or several thousand-word essay questions.

• The Final Exam is worth UP TO 100 points and will also be available for a LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME. Like 24 hours.

• If you are unable to take the Final Exam during the scheduled window of opportunity, you will not be able to take it again. There are no make-up tests.

• Even if you are in the hospital (okay, a verifiable medical excuse is an exception) or bereaving the loss of a beloved family or friend (fine, I will also work with you on this) but you still can jump online within the exam period and take it.

• Nothing is so pressing that you are unable to get online to do the quiz or reflection question. Think about it - the Units have been open since the day the class opened. Even if it’s Unit 1, you’ve had NEARLY TWO WEEKS to complete Unit 1.
• So there is no excuse for missing any assignment deadlines. And I’ve heard them all. My dog ate the wi-fi is my favorite.

• Part of the deal with an online course is that you will have access to a computer. It is NOT the Instructor’s responsibility if your laptop dies and the Genius Bar is booked. Go and find another computer.

• That includes the internet. You must have full access to the internet to take this course. If your internet goes out and you miss a deadline, then that is not the course’s fault. You need to remedy that situation fast. Get to someone’s house or a library or someplace with reliable internet. I actually built this course at Starbucks. And McDonalds. Or else you could lose some valuable points.

• Hence the beauty and curse of taking a college course online. By the way, no one who has taken the final exam has ever failed this class. I mean it. No one.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 1:</th>
<th>Assignments &amp; Possible Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opens</td>
<td>Closes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1/11/2016 9:00 AM | 1/22/2016 4:00 PM | Unit 1  
Sec 1 Quiz - 20 points  
Sec 1 Reflection Answer – 16 points  
Sec 2 Quiz - 20 points  
Sec 2 Reflection Answer – 16 points  
Sec 3 Quiz - 20 points  
Sec 3 Reflection Answer - 16 points  
TOTAL (up to) 108 points |
# THE 405 – FILM: GREAT COMEDY FILMS

## SYLLABUS  SLN# 20705 / 20381  SPRING A- 2016

### Unit 2: Assignments & Possible Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opens</th>
<th>Closes</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/11/2016</td>
<td>2/4/2015</td>
<td><strong>Unit 2</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sec 1 Quiz – 20 points&lt;br&gt;Sec 1 Reflection Answer – 16 points&lt;br&gt;Sec 2 Quiz – 20 points&lt;br&gt;Sec 2 Reflection Answer – 16 points&lt;br&gt;Sec 3 Quiz - 20 points&lt;br&gt;Sec 3 Reflection Answer – 16 points&lt;br&gt;TOTAL (up to) 108 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Unit 3: Assignments & Possible Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opens</th>
<th>Closes</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/11/2016</td>
<td>2/17/2016</td>
<td><strong>Unit 3</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sec 1 Quiz - 20 points&lt;br&gt;SEC 1, NO REFLECTION ANSWER&lt;br&gt;Sec 2 Quiz – 20 points&lt;br&gt;Sec 2 Reflection Answer – 16 points&lt;br&gt;Sec 3 Quiz – 20 points&lt;br&gt;Sec 3 Reflection Answer – 16 points&lt;br&gt;TOTAL (up to) 92 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Unit 4: Assignments & Possible Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opens</th>
<th>Closes</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/11/2016 9:00 AM</td>
<td>3/1/2016 4:00 PM</td>
<td>Unit 4&lt;br&gt;Sec 1 Quiz - 20 points&lt;br&gt;Sec 1 Reflection – 16 points&lt;br&gt;Sec 2 Quiz – 20 points&lt;br&gt;Sec 2 Reflection – 16 points&lt;br&gt;Sec 3 Quiz - 20 points&lt;br&gt;SEC 3, NO REFLECTION ANSWER&lt;br&gt;Total (up to) 92 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final Exam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opens</th>
<th>Closes</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/1/2016 4:00 PM</td>
<td>3/2/2016 4:00 PM</td>
<td>Online Final Exam – Up to 100 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTALS FOR GRADING:**

UNIT 1 – up to 108 points  
UNIT 2 – up to 108 points  
UNIT 3 – up to 92 points  
UNIT 4 - up to 92 points  
Final Exam - up to 100 points
GRAND TOTAL of up to 500 Points

AND ON THE LAST PAGE - THERE IS THE LAST BUT NOT LEAST (THE BOLD AND ALL CAP EDITION)

THE BEST WAY TO CONTACT THE INSTRUCTOR IS THROUGH E-MAIL clamont@asu.edu - I’m good at getting back with you. And if I don’t get back with you in 24 hours, please EMAIL ME AGAIN.

LAST WARNING ABOUT UNIT CLOSING DEADLINES, if you have an issue with meeting a Unit closing deadline, you cannot appeal missing a Unit or any assignment within the Unit.

This is due to the fact that these Units and Sections have been open SINCE THE SEMESTER STARTED. Waiting until the last minute is not acceptable. Don’t bother asking.

You can go at your own pace, just make sure its’ not at a DESERT TORTOISE’S PACE (not a snail’s pace – this is Arizona after all).

That’s It! Send me questions if you need to! I AM HERE FOR YOU! clamont@asu.edu - and have fun this semester!