

## **MODEL PROPOSAL FOR ENGL 5339 (DIRECTED STUDY)**

**ROBERT UREN**

**STAND-UP COMEDY: THEORY & TEXT**  
**SUPERVISING FACULTY: DR. ROBERT DONAHOO**  
**FALL 2010**

### **RATIONALE FOR DIRECTED STUDY:**

The purpose of this directed study is to create a structured, academic space in which I may pursue a familiarity with and participation in current trends in humor scholarship, with a specific focus on theoretical analyses of stand-up comedy texts. Pragmatically, the course will culminate in my producing an academic writing sample that will demonstrate my ability to function at a high level within the arena of graduate and professional critical studies; this demonstration is intended to facilitate my admittance into and success within a PhD program in the field of American Studies, Communications, or English. Less pragmatically, though perhaps more importantly, the course is designed to intensify and formalize my efforts to understand and critique intelligently to read and respond insightfully to popular comedic texts, an ambition that informs my scholarly, creative, and personal pursuits.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- x Increase understanding of academic literature concerning humor

feature performances. Finally, although we have seen the end of the stand-up comedy in the United States continue to host thousands of hours of stand-up comedy each week. A broader conceptualization of stand-up comedy form exponentially, as it would comfortably include sketch comedy troupes and their traditional stand-up acts for situation comedies and films. Stand-up comedy is a cultural phenomenon in need of deep readings and thoughtful discourse. My work for this directed study will be done in the spirit of meeting that need, however partially it is to accomplish the broader aims.

**EVALUATION:**

**READING RESPONSES ESSAYS (20% COLLECTIVELY)**

To organize my experience with the readings, I will present Dr. Donahoo weekly with informal one to three chapters. These papers will ensure some degree of comprehension and will, in some cases, grow into more substantial portions of the longer, more formal writings. These will not require formal evaluation beyond assessing their completion.

**PRELIMINARY WRITINGS (30% COLLECTIVELY)**

I will write two five-page essays in preparation for the longer, more rigorous final paper. Each preliminary writing assignment will utilize a theoretical apparatus to read a stand-up comedy.

**FINAL PAPER (50%):**

The course readings and discussions will ultimately inform a publishable paper of twenty to twenty-five pages. The project will use critical works and original readings of primary texts to defend a clear thesis designed to enhance the existing theorization of stand-up comedy as a cultural artifact of consequence.

**SEMESTER GRADING RUBRIC:**

Reading Response Papers.....	20% Collectively
Preliminary Writings.....	30% Collectively
Final Paper.....	50%

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Dr. Donahoo and I will meet weekly to discuss readings and thoughts, according to the following schedule.

### WEEK 1 HISTORY, HUMOR & STAND-UP:

Ecttgm. Co {0 ð Jkuvqtkecn Xkgyu qh Jwoqt0ö Tcumkp 525-32.  
Zoglin, Richard. Comedy at the Edge  
Knoedelseder, William. *Lo D{kpi Ur Hgtg.*  
Tafoya, Eddie. Chapters 4 and 5. Tafoya 1988.

### WEEK 2 PHILOSOPHY:

Oqttgcm. Lqjp0 ð Rjknquqr j { cpf Tgnkikqp0ö Tcumkp 433-242.  
Vchq{c. Gf fkg0 ð Lqmg Vjgqtkgu0ö Vchq{c 93-84.

### WEEK 3 LINGUISTICS:

Attardo, Ucnxcvqtg0 ð C Rtkogt hqt Nkpiwkuvkeu qh Jwoqt0ö Tcumkp 323-156.  
Oqttgcm. Lqjp0 ð Xgt den Jwoqt ykvjqwv Uykejkpi Uetkrvu0ö

### WEEKS 4 RHETORIC & DISCOURSE:

I tcdcp. Vctg| Uco tc0 ð Dg{qpf ÷ Ykv cpf Rgtuwcuqkp0ö Tcumkp 5 ; ; -448.  
Wilson, Nathan Andrew. Was That Supposed To Be Funny?  
I tggpdew o. Cpftgc0 ð Uvcpf-Wr Eqogf{ cu Tjgvqtkecn Ctiwo gpv0ö  
Rgctuqp. M{tc0 ð Yqt fu Ujqwnf Fq vjg Yqtm qh Dqo du0ö

### WEEK 5 CULTURE & FOLKLORE:

Okpv|. Ncygtgpeg G0 ð Jwoqt cpf Rqrwnct Ewnvwtg0ö Tcumkp 4:3-302.  
---0 ð Uvcpf-up Comedy as qe ken cpf Ewnvwtcn Ogfkcvkqp0ö  
Qtkpi. Gnnqv0 ð Jwoqt kp Cpvjtrqni { cpf Hqnmnqtg0ö Tcumkp 3:5-210.  
---0 ð Lqmgu cpf vjg Fkueqwtug qp Fkucuvgt0ö  
Dundes, Alan. Selections from *Cracking Jokes*

### WEEK 6 THE POSTMODERN:

#### Preliminary Essay 1 Due

Auslander. Rjknkr0 ð Eqogf{ cdqww vjg Hcknwtg qh Eqogf{0ö  
Baudrillard, Jean. *From the Precession of Simulacra* 173-174.  
Lcogup. Htgfgtke0 ð Rquv o qfgtpku o. qt. vjg Ewnvwtcn Nqike qh Ncvg Ecrkvenku o ö  
Lyotard, Jean. *Htcepeku0ö Fghkpkpi vjg Rquv o qfgtp0ö Ngkvej* 383-1615.  
Vchq{c. Gf fkg0 ð Uvgxgp Ytkijv cpf vjg Rquv o qfgtp Rkectguswg0ö Vchq{c 389-180.  
Ywuvgt. Vtce{0 ð Eqogf{ Lqmg < Uvgxg Octvkv cpf vjg Nko kvu qh Uvcpf-Wr Eqogf{0ö

## **WEEK 7 PARODY, SATIRE, & IRONY:**

Jwvjgqp. Nkpfcl ðVjg Rqnkveu qh Rctqf {0ö The Politicsof Postmodernisr 93-117.  
I tc { . Lqpevjcp0 ðKpvgtygzvwenkv { cpf vjg Uvwf { qh Vgzvu0ö  
Eqnngwc. Nkuc0 ðRqnkvecn Ucvktg cpf Rquv o qfgtp Ktqp {0ö  
Tkvejkg. Fcxkf0 ðHtc o g-Ujkhvkpi kp Jwoqt cpf Ktqp {0ö  
Ujwictv. Jngpgp C0 ðRquv o qfgtp Ktqp { cu Uwdxgtukxg Tjgvqtkecn Uvtcvgi {0ö

## **WEEK 8 SOCIOLOGY:**

Mwkrgtu. Ikugnkpfgl ðVjg Uqekqni { qh Jwoqt0ö Tcumkp 583-398.  
Ujqwug. Gtke0 ðTqng qh Chhgev kp vjg Rgthqt o cpeg0ö  
Rutter, Jason StandUp as Interaction 25-50.

## **WEEK 9 BLACKNESS:**

### **Preliminary Essay 2 Due**

Gates, Jr., Henry d wku0 ðVcnmkpi Dncem0ö Ngkvej 4646-32.  
Uokvj. Dctdctc0 ðVqyctf c Dncem Hgokpkuv Etkvkeku o0ö Ngkvej 4524-15.  
jqqmu. dgnn0 ðRquv o qfgtp Dncempguu0ö Ngkvej 469: -84.  
Uejwnocp. Pqto c0 ðVjg Jqwug vjcv Dncem Dwkvnö

## **WEEK 10 GENDER:**

Ekzquw. Jngpgp0 ðVjg Ncwij qh vjg Ogfwuc0ö Ngkvej 425; -2056.  
Butler, Judith. Fron Gender Trouble

**WEEK**

