



CTWR 404

Foundations of Comedy
#19311R // Professor David Isaacs
Mondays 7 – 10pm // 2 units

Comedy is not accidental. It is a delicately constructed art form. A uniquely human and social endeavor aimed at creating the laugh - that involuntary acknowledgment of life's imperfection that ultimately brings humans together so that we might make peace with a confusing existence.

This course seeks to define comedy, its architecture, and sources, by exploring where jesters, writers, actors, clowns and stand-ups throughout history have looked to find humor, and the techniques they have employed to capture the funny and conjure the laugh. We'll explore films, television shows, standup acts and readings, drawing examples from comedy's earliest human expression in rite and ritual to the latest viral posting on YouTube.

Fair Warning: Comedy is, at its heart, controversial. Testing moral and social boundaries is its nature. Material shown and discussed in class may offend.