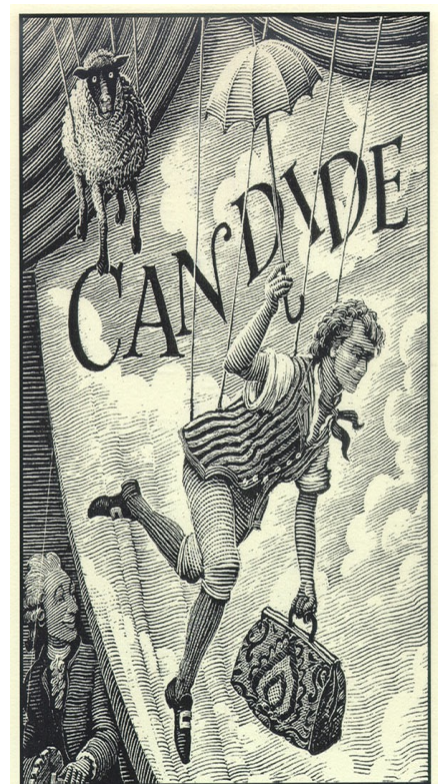




# FREN 250

Fall 2020

Tuesday & Thursday (4:00 - 5:50)



## Le Rire

Professor Scott Taylor, PhD

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Why do we laugh? What makes something comical? What are the characteristics of comedy in literary, theatrical, cinematic and other forms of artistic expression? How has the nature of what we consider funny evolved over time? Are there cultural differences regarding what we laugh about, or are there universal principles that define it? What is the relationship between comedy and tragedy, between joy and sadness, between laughter and tears? In short, what are the “rules of laughter”?

These are just a few of the questions we will ask in this course that is focused primarily on developing students’ communicative proficiency in French. We will explore the nature of comedy in literary and non-literary forms, to include African folktales, theatre arts, media, and stand-up comedy. We will also review finer points of French grammar and stylistics.