

## What's So Funny? Taking Laughter Seriously

### UMKC Honors Program Colloquium Spring 2009

#### Course Requirements:

- Class meets on Wednesdays
- Elections, announcements, etc. at 2:55
- Colloquium at 3:05
- Discussion at 3:40
- Course grade = average of three grading criteria

#### Grading Criteria:

- Attendance in class (1-2 absences: A; 3: B; 4: C; 5: D; 6 ↑: F)
- Attendance outside class (1 LLC activity: 1: A; 0: F)
- Projects (3 completed: A; 2: B; 1: C)

#### Assignments:

- 02/11/09: Unit One "Analytic" Response Paper handed out, due 2/18/09
- 02/25/09, 02/26/09, 03/02/09, & 03/03/09: View *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, at 10 PM or online at: <http://www.thedailyshow.com/>
- 03/11/09: Unit Two "Group" Response handed out, idea due on 03/18/09, execution due *before* 04/04/09
- 04/15/09: Unit Three "Creative" Response handed out, due 04/29/09

#### Activities:

- Make Reservations for *at least* One Living Learning Activity *before* 01/28/09
- 02/06/09: LLA #1: "Comedy Sports," Improvisational Theater, ComedyCity, 817 Westport Rd, KCMO, 7:30 PM with "talk back" after the show, \$11 (for 15 or more persons), through LLC Matt Varon at [mvpmc@umkc.edu](mailto:mvpmc@umkc.edu)
  - 03/12/09: LLA #2: Watch Comedy Film, LLC, Free for Students but RSVP required through LLC Matt Varon at [mvpmc@umkc.edu](mailto:mvpmc@umkc.edu)
  - 04/25/09: LLA #3: *The Master and Margarita*, by Ron Hutchinson, UMKC Theater Dept, "talk back" after the show with cast and director, Barry Kyle, order tickets directly at x6222, \$6 for students

#### Classroom Activities:

##### Unit One: Very Funny

- 01/14/09: Information Session
- 01/21/09: Kym Bennett, Psychology, UMKC, "Why We Laugh"
- 01/28/09: Louis Imperiale, Spanish, UMKC, "Irony, Satire, Parody"
- 02/04/09: Hali Fieldman, Conservatory, UMKC, "Funny Music"
- 02/11/09: Break-Out Discussion Groups: "Analyzing Humor"
  - Group A: CH104 (Herron)
  - Group B: (Martin)
  - Group C: (Bergerson)

##### Unit Two: Dark Humor

- 02/18/09: Jenny Huberman, Sociology/Anthropology, "Humor, Fieldwork, Tourism"
- 02/25/09: Victoria Day Lane, IPhD Stu., Religious Studies, UMKC, "Religious Jokes"
- 03/04/09: Harris Mirkin, Political Science, UMKC, "Political Satire"
- 03/11/09: Drew Bergerson, History/Clancy Martin, Philosophy, UMKC, "Hitler Jokes"
- 03/18/09: Break-Out Discussion Groups: "Plan Your Prank"
  - Group A: CH104 (Martin)
  - Group B: (Bergerson)
  - Group C: (Herron)

##### Unit Three: Make Me Funny!

- 04/01/09: Robert Stewart, Editor *New Letters*, UMKC, "How to Write Funny"
- 04/08/09: Joke Session: Students bring their favorite jokes
- 04/15/09: Linda Williams, ComedyCity, KCMO, "Comedy Improv 101"
- 04/22/09: Comic Improvisation, UMKC Theater Majors
  - Group A: CH104 (Bergerson)
  - Group B: (Herron)
  - Group C: (Martin)
- 04/29/09: Presentation of Senior Thesis and Discussion of Next Semester's Topic