

Comic Relief: Humor as Social Criticism (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Course ID: 0338

Admission requirements

General admission requirements for university studies.

Educational goals

After completing the course, students are expected to:

- Be able to reflect on and analyze questions of the power and limits of humor for social engagement.
- Have acquired experience in working with these questions by conducting interviews and researching relevant literature as well as by undertaking a research project and presenting it to the class.

Course content

Diverse forms of humor have long been used to pillory tyrants, spotlight corruption, challenge norms, build solidarity, instill hope, and defuse violence. This course explores the power and limits of humor for social engagement, by means of classical theorists, present-day case studies, in-class interviews with invited scholars and cultural workers (including humorists), and students' own research projects.

Teaching and examination

Course instruction takes the form of participatory lectures, students' prepared interviews with invited guests, discussions of the literature, practical exercises, and an analytical research project that is presented to the class.

Before each course meeting there are required reading assignments. Each student will, during the course of one week, be part of an interview team with other students, and through a literature search and development of interview questions, prepare an interview with an invited guest. The analytical written assignment can be done as a group project or solo, concluding with an oral presentation. The course is taught in English.

Bibliography

The course literature includes articles by and about the invited guests and their areas of concern -- chosen by the interview team made up of students -- as well as more theoretical writings chosen by the instructors. Course material will be distributed via web links each week and should be read in advance of the following course meeting.

See also "Kursplaner: allmänna bestämmelser" (Course plans: General rules)

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Valid as 2026-01-15