COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department: Liberal Arts

Programme: Combined Studies

FHEQ **Level:**   4

Course Title: British Comedy

Course Code: THR 4215

Course Leader: Canan Salih

Student Engagement Hours: 120 (standard 3- credit BA course)
Lectures: 25
Seminar / Tutorials: 10
Field Trips: 10
Independent / Guided Learning: 75

Semester: Summer

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits
6 ECTS credits
3 US credits

Course Description:
This course will introduce students to the components and unique traits of British Comedy. From theatre and musicals to TV, Film and Stand-Up, students will explore how British Comedy has developed over the centuries and decades to reflect the ever-shifting landscape of British society. In particular, this course will examine how Class plays a significant role in the distinctions and dynamics that define British comedy. The course will explore the elements of satire, absurdity, wit and self- deprecation, in line with the consistent puns, innuendos and intellectual jokes that are at the heart of British humour.

Prerequisites: None

Aims and Objectives:
The aim of this course is to introduce students to the journey of British Comedy and Humour, within political and entertainment contexts. The course will begin with considering the historical development of this genre, starting with 16th century theatres of William Shakespeare, Ben Jonson and William Congreve, the English witticism of 19th century Oscar Wilde and Bernard Shaw, and the contribution of music halls and seaside resorts, including Punch and Judy shows. The role of twentieth century films and television on the development of comedy is discussed, showing, for example, how situation comedy

programmes in television have developed to reflect class distinctions and regional aspects of comedy and humour in British society. There will be an exploration of the relationship between modern notions of protest and satire, in particular scrutinizing the role of British satire and postmodern irony ('post-ironic') as tools for political resistance and activism.

Programme Outcomes:
This is a standalone course and has been mapped to the BA Performance and Theatre Arts
   programme.

4A(i), 4B(i), 4C(i), 4D(i)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at: https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:
- Gain an understanding of British society with particular focus on class diversity and how comedy reflects and impacts on these cultural aspects

- Learn about the historical development of British comedy through its various mediums, including, but not limited to, the stage and television

- Understand the various characteristics of British comedy that differentiates it from other cultural forms of comedy

- Understand the different components of humour, from puns, innuendos, repartees and intellectual jokes to slapstick comedy.

Indicative Content:
- Shakespeare and Johnson
- Congreve
- Shaw and Wilde
- Music Hall Theatre
- Punch and Judy
- Stand-Up Comedy acts
- TV Sitcoms – Hancock's Half Hour, Only fools and horses, etc.
- Little BRITAIN, Vicar of Dibley, etc
- Film - Carry On films
- Notting Hill, Love Actually, Full Monty

Assessment:
This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

Teaching Methodology:
The classes will be predominantly seminar based with some field trips to see live stand-up and theatre shows and (if possible) films. The classes will involve presentations, screenings, and some guest acts (stand-up comedians and actors).

Indicative Text(s):
Alexander, Richard. "BRITISH COMEDY AND HUMOUR: SOCIAL AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND." *AAA: Arbeiten Aus Anglistik Und Amerikanistik*, vol. 9, no. 1, 1984, pp. 63–83. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/43023313.

See syllabus for complete reading list
Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services