*Humanities: Humor…Seriously!*

Humanities BMHS Block 2 2015

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| Ms. Percy  percy\_cg@mtnhomesd.org |

**Course Description**:

As a survey of humor and why we need to laugh we’ll only touch on a fraction of the material available to explore. While we will read, watch, and listen to many selected works of humor, this survey can only provide a sampling of the myriad of comedy and humor in literature, film, TV, radio, and live performances. The course is designed to both familiarize a student with the major works, comedians, and types in the world of humor and to serve as an introduction to analytical studies. As such, the course will focus not only on notable authors and their texts but also on methods and strategies for reading and evaluating humor. We will also be exploring the historical and cultural contexts in which humor was produced and developed. We will discover how diverse the world of humor is and the many ways we use humor in everyday life.

**Course Goals**

Students who successfully complete this course should be able to demonstrate the skills and

knowledge listed below:

A basic understanding of humor.

A familiarity with selected comedians over time; a familiarity with selected works in a

variety of genres of humor.

The ability to interpret humor and discuss its components and significance.

The ability to analyze humor with attention to style and form as well as to content.

Self-awareness as a reader/listener/watcher. An understanding of the assumptions,

advantages, and limitations of one’s own approach to humor.

An understanding of important comedy concepts and of the basic terminology used to

discuss humor.

An understanding of how humor and comedy has evolved over time and what’s funny

now.

**Course Requirements & Grading Distribution**:

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| Daily Participation  Final Performance | 30%  30% |
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| Biography Presentations | 10% |
| Movie FastForward Presentations  Group Project: Mimicking  Analysis Project | 10%  10%  10% |
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**Explanation of Requirements**:

Students MUST participate and attempt ALL components of the class activities and projects in order to be eligible for completion of course credit.

Daily Participation: Students will be evaluated periodically on in class work, participation in discussions, and general attitude towards learning. These grades will be combined at the end of the block and will represent 30% of each student’s grade. Students are encouraged to attend all classes because some of the activities will depend on classroom participation. Students will write informal and formal pieces as assigned during each block. These pieces will be collected in their binders and will be evaluated periodically.

Final Performance: This project will involve writing and performing a comedic routine using a combination of elements explored during the course of the block. Students will vote on their favorite comedy routine.

Biography Presentations: Students will research selected comedians or teams of comedians and present biographical information and samples of the comedian’s work.

Movie FastForward Project: Students will create a multi-media presentation for a movie from a list provided that includes information on the movie, the director, actors, plot, and comedic themes.

Group Project: Mimicking: Students will select a team of comedians and re-enact a series of the team’s comedy routines and acts.

Analysis Project: Students will develop a system to analyze the components of comedy and humor and create a multi-media presentation outlining examples of these components.

**Course Policies**

Class Attendance and Absences: Please refer to the Student Handbook for attendance and absence policies. If you are absent from school but still able to communicate electronically please do!

Electronic Devices: The use of cell phones, I-pads, ear-buds, MP3 players, etc. is prohibited during class unless permitted by me, the teacher. I expect that you will NOT make family and social contacts through any means during class.

Late Work: All work must be completed by the end of the block, period. The rest of the deadlines will be flexible.

Conduct: All students are expected to adhere to the guidelines for classroom behavior and academic honesty included in the Bennett Mountain High School 2015-2016 Handbook. In addition to this, each class will develop an Essential Agreement that outlines your class members’ expectations for your daily conduct.