

ENGL S-185. Wit and Humor (CRN: 31614)

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Emphasizing wit and humor rather than "comedy" as classically understood, the course will consider selected texts and films (including, for example, Mark Twain, Oscar Wilde, Robert Benchley, Dave Barry, Woody Allen, and Monty Python) and pay particular attention to theoretical writings by psychologists, sociologists, and critics who have tried to explain why people laugh, want to laugh, and pay to be made to laugh.