

US COMEDY
David Herz - Levels B1 –C2

What is funny, and why?

Is it **only** hyenas and we humans who really laugh out loud?

In this course on laughter, we will try and provoke it in our fellow humans. We will study the one-liner joke and its masters, including Henny Youngman and the famous – e.g. William Churchill, George Bernard Shaw et al - who were so good at putting everyone down.

Woody Allen began his career as a one-liner writer and we will study comedians in general to see whether they still make us laugh.



The Harpo Marx Gookie

Texts, films, sketches, and **your** everyday life will be the raw material.

Evaluation

The course grade is determined by an oral and written presentation from each student as well as the student's overall participation and presence and by how often they make us laugh, both deliberately and accidentally.

Autonomy

Students will create a project on the use of political satire in the US.

Participation and course preparation - 40%

Personal work (oral and written) - 60%