

HONR4975.01: Humor in the Tradition
Spring, 2020
Rob Gross
Stokes S261, Tuesday 1:30–3:45

OFFICE: Maloney 515, 617-552-3758

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, 1–2; Wednesday and Friday, 3–5; and by appointment

ELECTRONIC MAIL: gross@bc.edu

CLASS HOME PAGE: <http://fmwww.bc.edu/gross/HONR4975>

Texts

Possible works to be studied this semester:

- “The Comedy of Errors”
- Other comic works about master-servant relations:
 - “The Servant of Two Masters”
 - “Scapin,” Molière
 - Figaro (Beaumarchais, Mozart, Rossini)
 - *Don Quixote*, Cervantes
- *Tristram Shandy*
- *Emma*, Jane Austen
- Mark Twain
- “The Importance of Being Earnest,” possibly Stoppard’s “Travesties”
- George Bernard Shaw
- Eugene O’Neill: “Ah, Wilderness!”, “Long Day’s Journey Into Night”
- Neil Simon: “The Sunshine Boys,” “Laughter on the 23rd Floor”
- Films
 - “The General”
 - “The Great Dictator”
 - “Looney Tunes”
 - “His Girl Friday”
 - “L’Age d’Or,” Buñuel
- “Saturday Night Live”

Schedule

January 14: “Comedy of Errors”
January 21: NO CLASS
January 28: *Tristram Shandy*, vols. 1–6

Essays

You must submit during the course of the semester seven papers, minimum length of three full pages. All homework submitted in this class must be typeset using twelve-point Roman, double-spaced, one-inch margins, on standard US paper. You may not submit more than one paper per week.

Examinations

There will be a final examination in this class. I cannot figure out looking at the complex rules on the registrar's web site when it will be.

Grades

Your grade is determined by the following three components:

- (1) Attendance and class participation will count for 40% of your grade. Each absence will decrease your grade by 5%, and consistent tardiness will also hurt your grade.
- (2) Essays account for 35% of your grade.
- (3) The final examination will account for the remainder of your grade.

Academic Integrity

Any violations of the College's policy on academic integrity will be dealt with severely. For more information, see

<http://www.bc.edu/integrity>

Learning Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability seeking reasonable accommodations in this course, please contact Kathy Duggan (617-552-8093, dugganka@bc.edu) at the Connors Family Learning Center regarding learning disabilities and ADHD, or the Disability Services Office, (617-552-3470, disabsrv@bc.edu) regarding other types of disabilities, including temporary disabilities. Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.