

English/History 3070
Perspective in Folklore: British Comedies
Fall 2007

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Office: Main 323I
History Department

Thursday 4:30 - 7:00
Classroom: Main 115
Office hours: Wed., Thurs. 3:00-4:00

Course Description: Since motion pictures were invented in the 1890s, both feature films and documentaries have played a significant role in the expressive culture (folklore) of Great Britain. In this course we will study (and enjoy!!) post-World War II British Comedy films from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

Assignments and Grading:

You will be asked to write a 2-page Film Review Form for 10 of our films and we will have a quiz on each of them in class.

Ten film analysis forms	10 x 5% =	50 %
Ten quizzes	10 x 5% =	<u>50 %</u>
		100 %

R-rated Films: Of the 10 films we will study, six are R-rated, two are NR, and two are PG. If you have personal problems watching and discussing R-rated films, THIS IS NOT THE COURSE FOR YOU. Sorry.

Watching Films Outside of Class: You are responsible to view each film BEFORE it is discussed in class. Copies of these films are on reserve in the Sci-Tec Library. Local video stores (The Book Table, Hastings, Blockbuster, Hollywood Video, etc.) also have copies. If you rent the videos, please return them promptly so that other class members will also have rental access.

Assessment. Utah State asks all professors to assess their success or failure in achieving stated course goals. In this course I have three primary goals: 1) Help students better understand Great Britain and the United States as pluralistic, multi cultural nations 2) Demonstrate that films can be educational as well as entertaining and that we can learn valuable humanistic lessons from watching good movies (i.e., visual literacy); and 3) Create opportunities to practice critical thinking and group communication skills in class.

Mission Statement. This course meets the requirements of the English and History Departments' mission statements and the Folklore Program, too!

Course Description Fall 2007

- August 30 Introduction: The British Sense of HUMOUR
- September 6 In-Class Film EALING COMEDIES
- September 13 Kind Hearts and Coronets (NR, 106 min) 1949. Practice Film Review & Quiz
- September 20 The Ladykillers (WR, 91 min) England 1955. Review & Quiz #1.
- September 27 Monty Python's Holy Grail (R, 94 min) England 1979. Review & Quiz #2.
- October 4 Four Weddings and a Funeral (R, 120 min) England 1993. Review & Quiz #3.
- October 11 The Full Monty (R, 95 min) Scotland-England 1997. Review & Quiz #4.
- October 18 Whisky Galore (NR, 80 min) Scotland 1948. Review & Quiz #5.
- October 25 Local Hero (PG, 112 min) Scotland 1983. Review & Quiz #6.
- November 1 The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill But Came Down a Mountain (PG, 96 min) Wales 1995. Review & Quiz #7.
- November 8 The Commitments (R, 116 min) Ireland 1991. Review & Quiz #8.
- November 15 The Boys & Girl from Country Clare (R, 100 min) Ireland 2003. Review & Quiz #9.
- November 29 Love Actually (R, 2 hrs. 15 min) England 2004. Review & Quiz #10.
- December 6 Course Wrap Up