

**WRITING 2213G-650**  
LOL: HUMOUR WRITING

## **Assignment Format**

All assignments should be double-spaced as they are easier to grade and as close to the assigned word count as possible. **Assignments must be submitted via the OWL site for the course.** Emailed assignments may be acceptable in certain circumstances.

\*Workshops will be done electronically in small groups of about five to which you may be assigned. Prior to any week in this syllabus that mentions workshopping, you should provide copies of your draft work to fellow students so they have time to provide you feedback before you submit your final version to me.

## **Submitting Assignments**

Keep your assignments; however, since one of the purposes of this course is to

That advisor may then contact all of your instructors. Ugg enuq< ÷**Medical Accommodation Policy**ø  
below.

**Note**< c enuu o ggkpi o kuugf kp qtfgt vq ytkvg c vguv, gzc o, qt qvjgt hqt o qh ÷ o cmg-wr enuuø kp  
another course **will** count as non



		<p>Using this story or any other funny list you might have read, write your own funny list of <b>between 350 and 500 words</b>.</p> <p>Another example of the list format is here:        ðC I wkfg vq Uw o ogt Uwp Rtqvgevkqpö at  <a href="http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2009/08/10/a-guide-to-summer-sun-protection">http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2009/08/10/a-guide-to-summer-sun-protection</a></p> <p>Also, read this piece by Amy Poehler for next week as an example of personal experience writing.</p> <p><a href="http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2013/10/14/take-your-licks">http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2013/10/14/take-your-licks</a></p>
<p>Week 3</p>	<p><b>Writing from Personal Experience/The Art of Parody</b></p> <p>Mining your personal life for comedy gems. Writing styles that can be imitated, twisted and massaged for effect.</p>	<p><b>Watch the Honest Trailer of The Hunger Games at</b>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_hp_xsUg9ws">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_hp_xsUg9ws</a></p> <p><b>Read “Wikipedia Brown and the Case of the Missing Bicycle” by B. J. Novak at</b>  <a href="http://www.dinnerpartydownload.org/b-j-novak/">http://www.dinnerpartydownload.org/b-j-novak/</a></p> <p><b>Post a joke or two to the class next week and explain why they’re funny.</b></p>
<p>Week 4</p>	<p><b>Parody (continued)/A man walks into a bar... and Writing Jokes</b></p> <p>Why do some jokes make you laugh and others fqpøvA</p>	<p><i>Assignment (25%): Write a short piece based on a personal experience. Due Feb. 12. Details on OWL.</i></p> <p><b>Watch the following video to get another taste of doing a song parody.</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MqyvI_EtIHk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MqyvI_EtIHk</a></p> <p><b>Read Demetri Martin’s “My Diet” at</b>  <a href="http://www.esquire.com/food-drink/food/a9795/demetri-martin-book-excerpt-5615929/">http://www.esquire.com/food-drink/food/a9795/demetri-martin-book-excerpt-5615929/</a></p> <p><b>Watch a satirical TV show (SNL, The Daily Show, etc.) before next week</b></p>
<p>Week 5</p>	<p><b>Satire: Cruel But Fair?</b></p> <p>Poking fun at institutions that need deflating. How to find humour in the tragic. Workshop your personal experience drafts.</p>	<p><b>Watch Key and Peale’s “Substitute Teacher” at</b>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRpsRKuyi3Y">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRpsRKuyi3Y</a></p> <p><b>You may have seen this clip before but we’ll discuss it on Forum.</b></p>

Week 6     **The Boundaries of Humour: Are there any?**

Be prepared to discuss what kind of humour you consider offensive. Discussion of dark/edgy

---

**Reading  
Week**

Week 11	<p><b>Writing to Perform and Short Films.</b></p> <p>Writing material to be heard/seen by an audience. Watching some short films to be followed by analysis/critique.</p>	<p>Watch the following video from Mr. Show, which is a performance that comments on performance.</p> <p><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-ZNX1jqbOk">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-ZNX1jqbOk</a></p> <p>Also read this excerpt from Mindy Kaling's book Why Not Me? at  <a href="http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/08/10/coming-this-fall">http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/08/10/coming-this-fall</a></p>
Week 12	<p><b>Theories of Humour in 21<sup>st</sup> Century/ Markets for Humour</b></p> <p>Jqy jcu jwoqwt ejcpigf í cpf yjgtg ku kv headed? Looking at where you can sell your work.</p>	

Week 13      **Final Thoughts/Comedy Films List**