THE COMEDY FILM

In this course, we will look at the comic tradition in filmmaking. Starting with silents, and then proceeding to sound movies, we will analyze the various components of humor in the movies through the work of some of the acknowledged comic masters.

Required Reading: Gerald Mast, *The Comic Mind*

Course Requirements:
1. Weekly two-page critical reaction papers (50%).
2. Final Exam (take home, essay) (50%).
3. Your lively and spirited participation in class discussions.

Date | Topic/Film | Reading
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S 10,12 | Assumptions, Definitions, Categories Dr. Strangelove | Sec. 1
S 17,19 | Early Silents Easy Street, The Pawnshop, One A.M. | Sec. 2
S 24,26 | Chaplin Modern Times (Also see The Gold Rush) | Sec. 3
O 1,3 | Other Silents The General, A Nous La Liberte | Sec. 4
O 8,10 | Sound: Dialogue To Be or Not to Be, (Also see His Girl Friday) | Sec. 5
O 15,17 | Irony and Complexity The Rules of the Game | 
O 22,24 | The Clowns Riff On The Producers | 