ENGLISH 208D* Modern Satire

Winter Term, 1975

Syllabus

Summary

The mode of satire in the fiction, drama, poetry, and discourse of the 20th century. Particular attention to the literary works of Waugh, Huxley, Orwell, Parker, Heller, Hiebert, and a dramatist of the absurd, but also attention to satiric cartoons and nightclub satire.

Order of topics (with texts assigned)

A. Introduction

1. Five record cuts
2. Don Hall, "The Perfect Church?" (to be distributed)

B. Satire of fashionable ideas

3. Huxley, Brave New World (Penguin)
4. Record cuts
5. Dorothy Parker, The Portable Dorothy Parker (Viking)

C. War and totalitarianism

6. Waugh, Scoop (Penguin)
7. Orwell, Animal Farm (Penguin)
8. Orwell, 1984 (Penguin)
9. Record cuts
10. Heller, Catch-22 (Dell)
11. Record cuts
12. Ionesco, "The Lesson," "Jack" in Four Plays (Grove)

D. Parody of literature

13. Record cuts
14. Ionesco, "The Bald Soprano" in Four Plays (Grove)
15. Hiebert, Sarah Binks (McClelland & Stewart)
E. A Lighter touch

16. Cartoons
17. Maloney, "Inflexible Logic" (to be distributed)
18. Record cuts

Work required

In addition to reading the texts and contributing, when appropriate, to the classroom discussion, students will be expected to write three 25-minute quizzes, an essay of 2-3,000 words, and a take-home examination.