ENGLISH 208D* Modern Satire

Winter Term, 1977

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, and Weiss, but also attention to satiric cartoons and nightclub satire.

Order of topics (with texts assigned)

A. Introduction

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

B. Satire of fashionable ideas

3. Short pieces from Kiley & Shuttleworth, Satire from Aesop to Buchwald (Bobbs-Merrill):
   (a) Bierce, from The Devil's Dictionary (pp. 310-12)
   (b) Clough, "The Latest Decalogue" (p. 292)
   (c) Frost, three poems (pp. 341-43)
   (d) Roberts, "If the Spirit of Rebellion Runs Its Course" (pp. 456-59)
4. Huxley, Brave New World (Penguin)
5. Record cuts
6. Dorothy Parker, The Portable Dorothy Parker (Viking): selected stories and poems
7. Weiss, Marat/Sade (Pocket Books)

C. War and totalitarianism (see page 2)
10. Two pieces from Kiley & Shuttleworth:
    (a) Betjeman, "In Westminster Abbey" (pp. 367-68)
    (b) Clemens, "To the Person Sitting in Darkness" (pp. 247-63)
11. Record cuts
12. Heller, *Catch-22* (Dell)
13. Record cuts
14. Three pieces from Kiley & Shuttleworth:
    (a) Hoppe, "Man's Black Magic" (pp. 467-68)
    (b) Sullivan, "The Cluché Expert Testifies on the Atom" (pp. 406-14)
    (c) Auden, "The Unknown Citizen" (pp. 369-70)

D. Parody of literature
15. Record cuts
16. Barth, "Taliped Decanus" in *Giles Goat-Boy* (Fawcett) (pp. 312-54)

E. A lighter touch
17. Cartoons

Work required

In addition to reading the texts and contributing, when appropriate, to the classroom discussion, students will be expected to write four 30-minute quizzes and an essay of 2-3,000 words.