

Essay 1: Humor and Taste
Due via Canvas by Tuesday 10/23 at 11:59pm
(Note: I am extending the deadline from 10/18 to 10/23)

Address the following topics in your essay:

- Present a universal theory of humor (you may build a hybrid view if you wish)
 - Be more detailed and nuanced in your explanation than Assignments 1 and 2
 - Analyze your view using the criteria from class: generality and specificity, and standard of taste
 - Address and respond to any potential weaknesses to your view

- Use your theory of humor to explain the limits of acceptable humor
 - According to your theory of humor, what makes a joke unacceptable or in bad taste?
 - Should some offensive topics be off-limits for humor? Why/why not?
 - Feel free to use examples from the documentary we will watch in class, *The Last Laugh*

Format:

- Write a three (3) page formal essay (no title pages)
- Use 12-point font, Times New Roman, 1-inch margins
- Cite your sources to provide evidence and support for your argument
 - Use MLA format (in-text citations + works cited page)
 - http://library.csun.edu/egarcia/documents/mlacitation_quickguide.pdf
 - Cite class readings only—outside sources are acceptable for examples
 - I discourage citing the Powerpoint slides—do your own research please
 - Failure to cite and analyze class readings will result in a loss of points

WARNING:

- Submitting this assignment to Canvas will check for plagiarism and originality through Turnitin.com. Don't cheat—it's not worth it. I report all instances of plagiarism to the Honor Council.
- I only accept the following file formats: doc, docx, pdf, txt, and rtf (Google docs and Pages files are unacceptable). If you do not use the proper file format then the assignment will receive a 0.
- Also, Canvas/Turnitin.com will not process file names that include special characters or dashes. If Canvas/Turnitin.com does not accept your file then it will receive a 0.