

DR. EZRA CAPPELL

Jews and Comedy

**JWST 300.01/ ENGL 364.02 • CRN 11990 • T 5:30 - 8:15PM
GEN ED - HUMANITIES | NO PREREQUISITES**



Are Jews funny? What makes a joke Jewish? Who can make Jewish jokes? Jews have been at the forefront of comedy in the United States. This class will look at the relationship between Jews and comedy in the twentieth century in the US and abroad, considering larger issues around how humor and jokes work, the centrality of comedy in modern Jewish culture, and how Jewish comedians have shaped modern American culture. We will consider how comedy is used as a weapon, as a defense mechanism, and what it tells us about the world around us.