

Comedies of Desire

Course Code: SMLM 003

The sessions are organised as outlined below, and although preliminary and subsequent reading lists cover a much wider range of references, it may be helpful to concentrate for the purposes of class discussion on the items highlighted here. Reading in preparation for writing essays on this option should take into account the suggested material—and your own discoveries—included in distributed bibliographies.

Programme:

1. Introduction
2. *Trouble in Paradise* (Lubitsch, 1932): **Questions of Authorship**. Recommended reading: John Caughie, ed., *Theories of Authorship* (BFI 1981), especially the chapter by Edward Buscomb, 'Ideas of Authorship'.
3. *The Lady Eve* (Sturges, 1941): **Genre**. Recommended reading: Peter Hutchings, 'Genre Theory and Criticism', in *Approaches to Popular Film*, Joanne Hollows and Mark Jancovich, eds. (MUP 1995)
4. *Some Like it Hot* (Wilder, 1959): **Stars**. Recommended reading Richard Dyer, *Stars* (BFI, 1979) and *Heavenly Bodies* (BFI 1987).
5. *Pillow Talk* (Michael Gordon, 1959): **Gender Theory**. Recommended reading Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity* (Routledge 1990).
6. *Annie Hall* (Woody Allen, 1970): **Humour**. Recommended reading Sigmund Freud, last section of *Jokes and Their Relation to the Unconscious* (pp. 293-302 in the Pelican edition).
7. *When Harry Met Sally* (Rob Reiner, 1989). **Intertextuality**. Recommended Reading, Frank Krutnik, 'Love Lies: Romantic Fabrication in Cotemporary Romantic Comedy', in Peter Evans and Celesting Deleyto, eds, *Terms of Endearment; Hollywood Romantic Comedy of the 1980s and 1990s*. (EUP 1998).
8. *Kind Hearts and Coronets* (Hamer, 1949). **Studios**. Recommended reading, Charles Barr, *Ealing Studios* (Cameron Books).
9. *Only Two Can Play* (Sidney Gilliat, 1962). **Adaptation**. Recommended reading James McFarlane, *Novel to Film; an Introduction to the Theory of Adaptation* (OUP1996).
10. *The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie*. (Buñuel, 1972) **Art Cinema**. Recommended reading, the section on art cinema in Pam Cook, ed., *The Cinema Book* (BFI).
11. *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* (Almodóvar, 1988). **Parody and Postmodernism**. Recommended reading Linda Hutcheon, *A Theory of Parody; the Teachings of Twentieth Century Art Forms* (1985)

Essential reading on Comedy:

Bakhtin, 'Introduction' to *Rabelais and His World*, Cambridge, Mass., Harvard Univ. Press, 1965.
 Bergson, Henri, 'Comedy' in Wylie Sypher, ed., *Comedy*, Doubleday, New York, 1956
 Corrigan, Robert W., *Comedy: Meaning and Form*, New York, Harper and Rowe, 1981.
 Freud, Sigmund, *Jokes and their Relation to the Unconscious*, Pelican Freud library, vol. 6, Harmondsworth, 1976, see especially chapters on jokes, on the comic and on humour.
 Frye, Northrop, *Anatomy of Criticism*, Princeton, Princeton Univ. Press, 1969
 King, Geoff, *Film Comedy*, Wallflower, London, 2002.

Essential reading on Film Romantic Comedy:

Babington, Bruce and Peter William Evans, *Affairs to Remember; the Hollywood Comedy of the Sexes*, Manchester Univ. Press, 1989
 Cavell, Stanley, *Pursuits of Happiness; the Hollywood Comedy of Re-Marriage*, Harvard Univ Press, 1981.
 Cohan, Steve, *Masked Men; Masculinity and the Movies in the 1950s*, Bloomington, Indiana Univ. Press
 Evans, Peter William and Celestino Deleyto, *Terms of Endearment; Hollywood Romantic Comedy of the 1980s and 1990s*, Edinburgh Univ. Press, 1998.
 Hortopn, Andrew S., *Comedy/Cinema/Theory*, Berkeley, Univ. California Press, 1991.
 Karnick, Kristine Bronovska and Henry Jenkins eds, *Classical Hollywood Comedy*, New York and London, Routledge, 1995.
 Neale, Steve and Frank Krutnik, *Popular Film and Television Comedy*, Routledge, London, 1990.
 Seidman, Steve, *Comedian Comedy, a Tradition in Hollywood Film*, Univ. California Pres, 1981

Other Reading of Related Interest:

Bell-Mettereau, Rebecca, *Hollywood Androgyny*, New York, Columbia Univ Press, 1985
 Belsey, Catherine, *Desire; Love Stories in Western Culture*, Blackwell, Oxford, 1994.
 Butler, Judith, *Gender Trouble; Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*, London, Routledge, 1990.
 Cook, Pam and Philip Dodd, 'Women and Film'; a *Sight and Sound Reader*, Scarlett Press, London
 Doane, Mary Ann, 'Film and Masquerade', in *A Screen Reader in Sexuality*, London, Routledge, 1992.
 Giddens, Anthony, *The Transformation of Intimacy; Sexuality, Love and Eroticism in Modern Societies*, Cambridge, Polity Press, 1992.
 Mulvey, Laura, , London, Macmillan, 1989.
 Silverman, Kaja, *The Acoustic Mirror; the Female Voice, Psychoanalysis and the Cinema*, Bloomington, Indiana Univ. Press, 1988.