Instructor: Tony Williams

2016 sees the 90th birthday of America's King of Comedy Jerry Lewis and this class intends to celebrate his achievements. The reason for this particular class is, as follows. First, although literature is often associated with the tragic, it also encompasses the comedic view of life. Secondly, dramatists such as Shakespeare often use comedy to good effect either by supplying audiences with light relief as in the drunken porter scene following the murder of Duncan in *Macbeth* or the use of the Fool in *King Lear*. Hence the class will study the films of Jerry Lewis whether he be sole author or collaborator with directors such as Frank Tashlin (who often share his visual style) and partner Dean Martin in a series of films satirically exposing 50s America and its discontents.

Films screened include extracts from the silent comedies of Chaplin, Keaton, and Stan Laurel to reveal the traditions Lewis explores, three Martin and Lewis 50s comedies, those directed by Lewis himself such as *THE BELLBOY* (1961), *THE NUTTY PROFESSOR* (1963), *THE PATSY* (1964), including an extract from *THE FAMILY JEWELS* (1965) recognizable to those unfortunate enough to fly from Williamson County to St. Louis (!), *HARDLY WORKING* (1980), and *CRACKING UP* (1983) as well as his collaborations with others such as *THE DISORDERLY ORDERLY* (1964), *THE KING OF COMEDY* (1983), and *FUNNY BONES* (1995)

During a period when Illinois politics oscillates between tragedy and farce, the presence of Jerry Lewis will provide welcome comic relief to those choosing to take this class

Four pages (maximum length 6 full pages) required.