EN 293.01 Laughter: A Literary Approach
Summer II  3 Credits

Instructor: Fr. Robert Farrell, S.J.
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Office: Stokes 381
Office Hours: Conferences can be arranged at almost any time.
              Telephone 617-552-8248
Schedule: Tuesday and Thursday 6:15-9:15
Room: Campion 328

Boston College Mission Statement
Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston
College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate,
graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own
accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks
both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its
distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of
a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious
tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in
all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline,
in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards
the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of
its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Course Description

EN 293.01 Laughter: A Literary Approach
One of the great delights of being fully human arises from an
individual's ability to share in mankind's infinite capacity for
laughter. Course explores the relationship between laughter and
happiness through the examination of some important sources of
laughter in contemporary literature: irony, paradox, wit, absurdity
and satire. This loving reflection on the human condition includes:
Hassler, Staggerford; Anne Tyler, Breathing Lessons; Russell Baker,
Growing Up; Kurt Vonnegut, Jailbird; and essays by Lewis Grizzard.

Course Objectives

Each student will:

a. make use of course material to improve thinking, problem sol-
   ving and decision making.
b. develop skills in expressing him/herself orally and in writing.
c. acquire an appreciation of the relationship between faith,
   love and laughter.
d. manifest an understanding of the workings of the human imagination.
e. demonstrate knowledge across cultural settings and will learn
   the impact of culture, gender and age in the investigation of the
   literary works.
Texts (Required)

Anne Tyler, *Breathing Lessons* (Berkley)
Lewis Grizzard, *It Wasn't Always Easy, but I Sure Had Fun* (Ballantine)
Kurt Vonnegut, *Jailbird* (Dell)
Russell Baker, *Growing Up* (Signet/NAL/Penguin)
Jon Hassler, *Staggerford* (Ballantine)

Supplementary Resources (with O'Neill Library notations)

Erma Bombeck, *The Grass Is Always Greener* PS3552.O59
Bill Cosby, *Childhood* Babst Library HQ767.9.C68
Mariana Funes, *Laughing Matters* BF575.L3 F86

Important Policies

[http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advstudies/guide/academicinteg.html](http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advstudies/guide/academicinteg.html)

Written Work
Graduate and undergraduate students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough, yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA, CLA format per instructors decision. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. You are encouraged to make use of campus resources for refining writing skills as needed [http://www.bc.edu/libraries/help/tutoring.html].

Scholarship and Academic Integrity
It is expected that students will produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to reference properly is plagiarism. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on examinations or assignments, and submitting the same paper or substantially similar papers to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work.

Request for Accommodations
If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with either Dr. Kathy Duggan (dugganka@bc.edu), Associate Director, Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities or ADHD) or Dean Paulette Durrett, (paulette.durrett@bc.edu), Assistant Dean for students with disabilities, (all other disabilities). Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.
Attendance
Class attendance is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive by the beginning of and remain for the entire class period. When an occasion occurs that prevents a student from attending class, it is the student’s obligation to inform the instructor of the conflict before the class meets. The student is still expected to meet all assignment deadlines. If a student knows that he or she will be absent on a particular day, the student is responsible for seeing the instructor beforehand to obtain the assignments for that day. If a student misses a class, he or she is responsible for making up the work by obtaining a classmate’s notes and handouts and turning in any assignments due. Furthermore, many instructors give points for participation in class. If you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Types of absences that are not typically excused include weddings, showers, vacations, birthday parties, graduations, etc. Additional assignments, penalties and correctives are at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. In all cases, students are expected to accept the decision of the instructor regarding attendance policies specific to the class.

Consistent with our commitment of creating an academic community that is respectful of and welcoming to persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing the fulfillment of their academic obligations. It is the responsibility of students to review course syllabi as soon as they are distributed and to consult the faculty member promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. If asked, the student should provide accurate information about the obligations entailed in the observance of that particular holiday. However, it is the responsibility of the student to complete any and all class requirements for days that are missed due to conflicts due to religious holidays.

There may be circumstances that necessitate a departure from this policy. Feel free to contact the WCAS at 617-552-3900 for consultation.

Deadlines
Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the specified dates. Late assignments will be graded accordingly.

Grading
WCAS Grading System
The undergraduate grading system consists of twelve categories: A (4.00), A- (3.67), excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67), good; C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67), satisfactory; D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (.67), passing but unsatisfactory; F (.00), failure; I (.00), incomplete; F (.00), course dropped without notifying office; W (.00), official withdrawal from course.
The graduate grading system is A (4.00), A- (3.67), Excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), good; B- (2.67), C (2.00), passing but not for degree credit; F (.00), failure.

Grade Reports. All students are required to log into the web through Agora to access their semester grades. Students must utilize their BC username and password to log on. If your username or password is not known, the Student Learning and Support Center in the O’Nei1 Library Computer Center will issue a new one. The SLSC requires a valid picture ID (a BC ID, driver’s license or passport) to obtain your password.
The final grade for this course will be derived from the following components:

50% daily quizzes and class participation.
50% examinations and papers.

Course Assignments

It is expected that 8 hours per week of study time will be spent on out of class assignments and exercises. These are listed below. Some weeks will require more time and some weeks less time, but the average is approximately 8 hours per week over the semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic/Reading/Exercises</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, June 25</td>
<td>Laughter's Lifeline</td>
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<td>Thursday, June 27</td>
<td>Breathing Lessons 3-174</td>
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<td>Tuesday, July 2</td>
<td>Breathing Lessons 177-324</td>
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<td>Thursday, July 4</td>
<td>Independence Day Holiday</td>
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<td>Tuesday, July 9</td>
<td>It Wasn't Always Easy 3-318 Paper #1 due.</td>
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<td>Thursday, July 11</td>
<td>Jailbird 1-166 (6:15-8:00) Mid-term exam on Breathing Lessons and Easy 8:15-9:15</td>
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<td>Tuesday, July 16</td>
<td>Jailbird 167-306</td>
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<td>Thursday, July 18</td>
<td>Growing Up 7-207</td>
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<td>Tuesday, July 23</td>
<td>Growing Up 208-348</td>
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<td>Thursday, July 25</td>
<td>Staggerford 3-156 Paper #2 due.</td>
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<td>Tuesday, July 30</td>
<td>Staggerford 159-294</td>
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<td>Thursday, August 1</td>
<td>Closing Considerations Final Examination</td>
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There is no education without laughter.

–Ralph Waldo Emerson