

Living off the Laughter:

History of Comedy in America

This course is a history class with a laugh track.

We will analyze the significant periods and

players of the 20th and 21st Centuries against

their historic context and legacy, using humor as

the platform. We will discuss how comedy was

shaped by and responsive to American society,

and how comedians influenced and shaped American life. We will cover Silent

Films, Vaudeville, Radio, Screwball and Romantic Comedies, Comedy Teams,

and the Golden Age of Television. We will study how America laughed in each

generation, and how the change in American character and persona shaped how

they laughed and what (and whom) they laughed at.

[Living Off the Laughter course promo video.](#)



Your Instructor: Eddy Friedfeld



Eddy Friedfeld is a film and entertainment journalist and historian. Friedfeld co-authored *Caesar's Hours* with Sid Caesar, *Directed by James Burrows* with James Burrows, and worked with Mel Brooks on *All About Me*. He was senior consultant for the Emmy-nominated *Make 'Em Laugh* and a consulting producer on *Funny You*

Never Knew. He has produced tributes to major entertainers including George Carlin, Paul Newman, Dick Van Dyke, among others. He teaches at Yale, NYU, and the Tisch School of the Arts.

Wednesdays, October 14 through November 18

Noon PT | 1pm MT | 2pm CT | 3pm ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, October 14
- Wednesday, October 21
- Wednesday, October 28
- Wednesday, November 4
- Wednesday, November 11
- Wednesday, November 18

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.