Osher Online™

A program of the Osher National Resource Center
at Northwestern University School of Professional Studies

WINTER2027

Living off The Laughter: The History of Comedy in America, Part II

This is a history course with a laugh track. We will explore American history, using humor as a lens for understanding the 20th and 21st centuries. We will discuss how comedy was shaped by and responsive to American society, and how comedians influenced and shaped American life. We will focus on comedy auteurs and incubators, standup, sitcoms, and political satire. We will consider how Americans laughed across generations, what and whom they laughed at, and what that reveals about American life.



Click here to view 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, JANUARY 27 THROUGH MARCH 3

2pmPT | 3pmMT | 4pmCT | 5pmET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Wednesday, January 27
- Wednesday, February 3
- Wednesday, February 10
- Wednesday, February 17
- Wednesday, February 24
- Wednesday, March 3

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.