

# **Monty Python's Flying Circus**

## **Week 1**

### **Contemporary Comedic Genius Series**

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# What Is The Contemporary Comedic Genius Series?

- **Designed specifically for OLLI classes at:**

Sonoma State	UCLA
Carnegie Mellon	San Francisco State
Calstate Eastbay	San Diego State
Santa Clara University	Widener University
Dominican University	University of Dayton
U of Alabama	Santa Rosa Jr. College
U of Minnesota	

- Clips
- Comedic technique analysis
- Context of the times
- Great comedians
- Class interaction

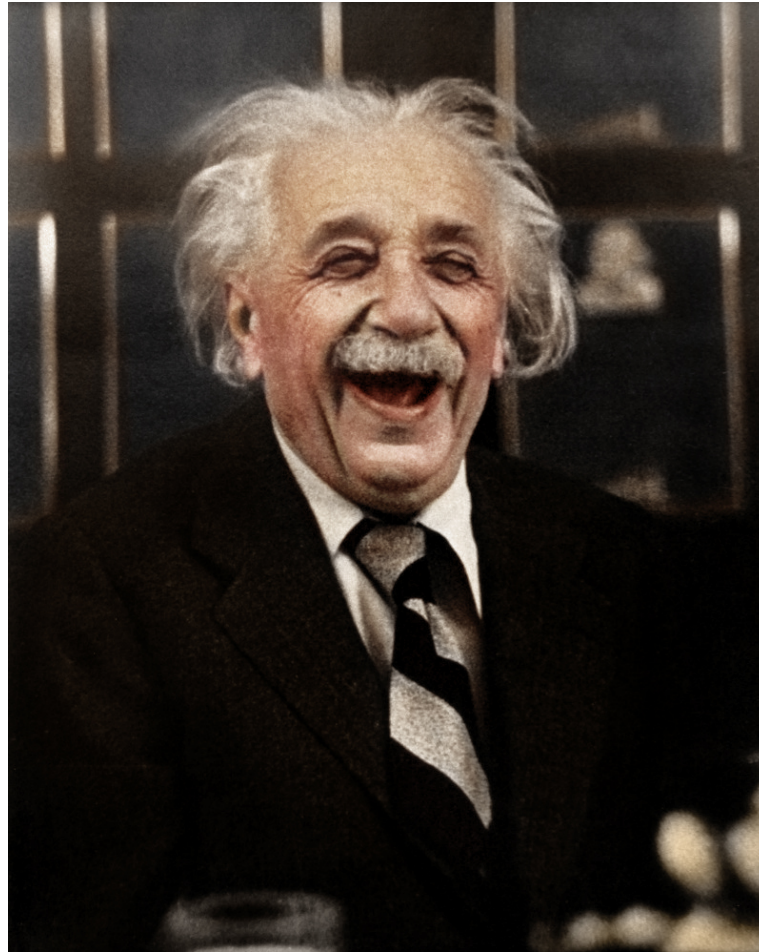
# Who needs comedy anyway?

- Comedy = Dopamine, the neural transmitter
- Dopamine in seniors (from Dr. Madan Kataria)
  - Better sex life
  - Better memory
  - Better sleep
  - Greater enjoyment of life
  - More vigor
  - ---Did we mention better sex life?

# Average American



# Average American on Comedy



# What Comedians Are Covered?

- **Monty Python**
- Jon Stewart
- Stephen Colbert
- SNL: The Gilda Age
- Woody Allen
- Mel Brooks
- Garry Trudeau
- Robin Williams
- Billy Crystal
- Smothers Brothers
- Moms Mabley
- Lenny Bruce
- George Carlin
- Richard Pryor
- Jonathan Winters
- Tom Lehrer
- Firesign Theater
- The Committee

# Monty Python Syllabus: Weeks 1-3

- **Week1: BBC in the 1960s**
  - Syllabus
  - BBC: Before There Were Pythons
- **Week 2: Monty Python's Flying Circus**
  - Forming the Pythons
  - BBC Flying Circus Clips and analysis
- **Week 3: Holy Grail**
  - Arthurian mythology and European history
  - Holy Grail clips , analysis, and how they got it made

# Monty Python Syllabus Weeks 4-6

- **Week 4: Meaning Of Life, Rutles**
  - Meaning of Life clips (and background)
  - The Rutles
- **Week 5: Life of Brian**
  - Life of Brian (funded by Beatle George Harrison)
  - Hollywood Bowl
- **Week 6: Not The Messiah**
  - Not the Messiah (Royal Albert Hall, London 2009)
  - Post-Python Movie Montages

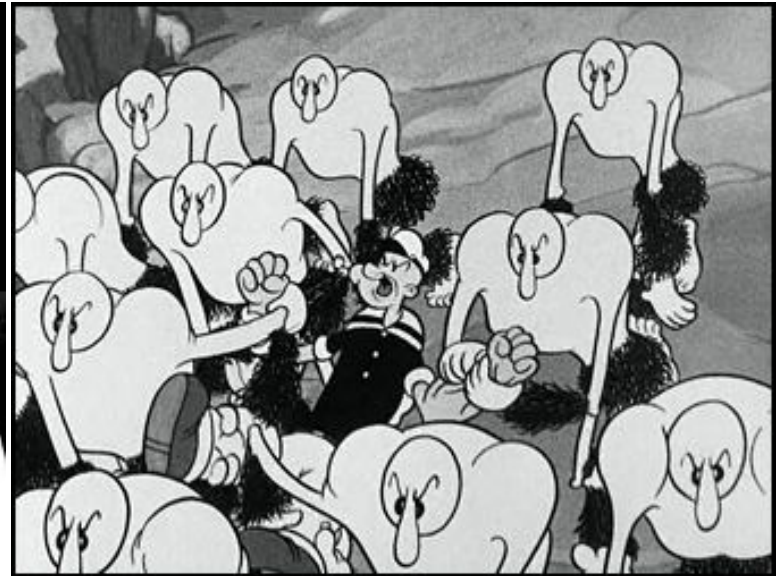


# Before There Were Pythons: BBC Comedy

- **The Goon Show (radio, 1951-1960)**
  - Spike Milligan, Peter Sellers, Harry Secombe
- **That Was The Week That Was (TV, 1962-63 UK, 64-65 USA)**
  - David Frost, John Cleese, Graham Chapman, Peter Cook, many others
- **The Frost Report (1966-67)**
  - John Cleese, Graham Chapman, Marty Feldman, John Law
- **The Two Ronnies (1971-87)**
  - Ronnie Barker , Ronnie Corbett
- **At Last The 1948 Show (1967-69)**
  - John Cleese, Graham Chapman, Marty Feldman, Tim Brooke-Taylor
  - Aimie Macdonald, David Frost
- **Do Not Adjust Your Set (1967-69)**
  - Michael Palin, Terry Jones, Eric Idle, Terry Gilliam, David Jason, Denise Coffey Brooke-Taylor, Aimie Macdonald, David Frost
- **Spike Milligan's Q5 (1969, 1975)**
  - Premiered months before Python with the same formats

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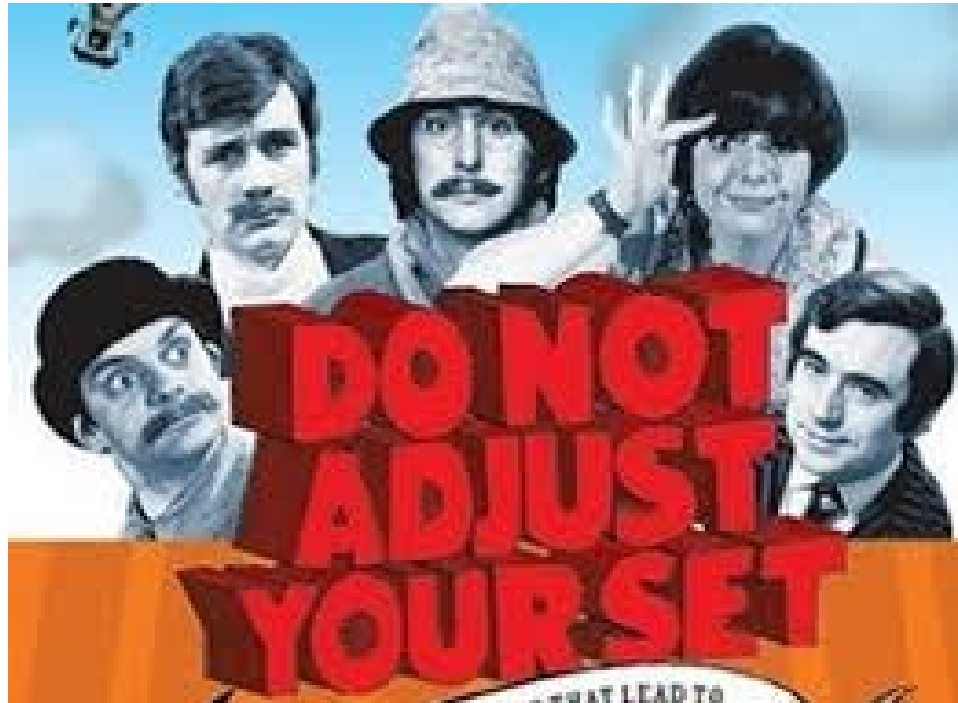
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