



STUDY GUIDE

Killing Comedy

KEY TERMS:

satire
censorship

prophetic
fact check

truth
fake news

Detail Focus: Complete this section <u>during</u> the video.	Main Summary Focus: Complete this section <u>after</u> the video.
<p>1. What is satire?</p> <p>2. A more intentional and insidious way the Left is killing satire is through what?</p> <p>3. What is the difference between fake news and satire?</p>	<p>1. What is the purpose and function of satire?</p> <p>2. Why is it getting more difficult for the writers at the Babylon Bee to do their job?</p>

Discussion & Review Questions

1. Towards the beginning of the video, Mr. Dillon explains that, “Satire exaggerates the truth to make a point. But when reality is this absurd, and extreme views and behavior are commonplace, how do you go a step beyond it? Almost anything we publish now ends up being believable. And much of it ends up actually coming true, as you’ve just seen... It’s one of the ways the Left is killing satire: by turning reality into a parody of itself.” Why do you think that extreme views and behavior are so commonplace now? Explain. What do you think Mr. Dillon means by stating that the Left is ‘turning reality into a parody of itself?’ Explain.
2. Later in the video, Mr. Dillon points out that, “There’s another, more intentional and insidious way the left is killing satire, and that’s through censorship... It used to be that jokes were either funny or not, they made you laugh or they didn’t, but now, in the fact-checking age, we’re giving them a truth rating. Jokes are no longer funny- they’re false. And false information is dangerous.” Why do you think that the Left is trying so hard to censor satire and anything that doesn’t agree with their point of view? Explain. Why do you think that the Left takes everything so seriously and so literally- to the point that they are ‘fact-checking’ obvious ridicule? Explain. In what ways might false information be ‘dangerous?’ Explain.
3. After sharing with us that Facebook threatened to de-monetize and to de-platform the Babylon Bee after the Snopes ‘fact-check,’ Mr. Dillon notes that, “It should go without saying that there’s a big difference between fake news, which is meant to deceive, and satire, which is meant to entertain and inform through mockery, humor, and irony. But the Left benefits by blurring this distinction. If they can successfully lump us in with fake news, then they can shut us down. It’s that simple. These fact checks, which often smear us by suggesting we’re purposefully misleading people, are nothing more than a creative, conniving way of justifying censorship.” Do you agree with Mr. Dillon that the Leftist media organizations are purposefully mislabeling and mistreating the content published by the Babylon Bee in order to shut the Bee down? Why or why not? What factors do you think are contributing to the amount of success that the Leftist media has had in censoring and ‘canceling’ media outlets that are not aligned with the Left? Explain.
4. Towards the end of the video, Mr. Dillon concludes that, “...humor is ultimately a vehicle for truth delivery, and the truth can be offensive. Think about all the things you’re not allowed to say anymore- not because they’re false, but because they make people uncomfortable. Satire cuts right through the pretense and political correctness to expose uncomfortable truths, and it does so more ruthlessly and effectively than anything else. ...Satire is necessary for the same reason. Satire ridicules bad ideas. And now, more than ever, bad ideas need to be exposed for what they are before they gain an even bigger foothold on our minds and hearts- especially on the minds and hearts of young people.” Why do you think that it is such a big deal nowadays to speak and to point out truth that might offend some people- i.e. what’s so wrong about offending some people? Explain. Do you agree with Mr. Dillon’s warning that bad ideas need to be exposed before too many young people take them too seriously? Why or why not?

Extend the Learning:

Case Study white patriarchy

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the articles “2+2=4? New York professor says purity of math reeks of ‘White supremacist patriarchy’ and Internet loses it,” and “‘Asinine’: Rutgers alters grammar rules for nonwhite students to ‘stand’ with Black Lives Matter movement” then answer the questions that follow.

1. What did Ms. Rubel say about math, in general, and in terms of the simple equation $2+2=4$? Who has supported her ridiculous claims? What debate is trending on social media, in terms of American mathematics? What does Ms. Rubel claim is a myth? What does she claim ‘reeks of white supremacy?’ What did she say she would rather ‘think on?’ Who is Kareem Carr, and what did he have to say about the debate? Who is Rochelle Gutierrez, and what is her take on the debate? Do you think that anyone understands Ms. Gutierrez when she says, “ ... we also want to attend to the Living Practice dimension (which is more about imagining a version that builds upon ancestral knowings, but does not yet exist)?” Why or why not? What did some of the people who disagreed with Ms. Rubel tweet back? What has the Rutgers University English department declared? Who is Rebecca Walkowitz, and what was her reasoning for the declaration? The school will be altering its grammar standards to do what? What did Ms. Walkowitz say that the program will now be doing for students? What did she state that the graduate writing program will be emphasizing? What have those who have denounced the changes said about them? Who is Leonydus Johnson, and what is his perspective on what Rutgers is doing?
2. Why do you think that Leftists are trying to fight a fake war, in terms of basing and attempting to justify their actions on the notion that colonialism, white patriarchy, and Western Civilization are some kind of major problem that needs to be eradicated? Explain. Why do you think that so many educators and administrators are drinking the ‘Critical Theory’ Kool-Aid and think that it is okay to so broadly impose one particular political ideology onto students? Explain. In the second article, the English department chair said that they will ‘...incorporate critical grammar’ into our pedagogy...’ - what do you think ‘critical grammar’ is? Explain. What do you think the short and long-term consequences of lowering the standards and admissions for academic programs to placate a specific group might be? Explain. What are the major problems with having such radical Leftists running academic institutions? Explain.
3. Do you think that the fact that so many schools are ‘ghosting’ parents about the extreme Leftist ideology being imposed upon their children is evidence that the schools know it is wrong to do so? Why or why not? Do you think that educators should be social justice warriors at work? Do you think that schools should support and spend money on social justice training and a curriculum full of extreme Leftist propaganda? Why or why not? Do you think that schools should be mostly apolitical? Why or why not?

2+2=4? New York professor says purity of math reeks of 'White supremacist patriarchy' and Internet loses it

'Y'all must know that the idea that math is objective or neutral IS A MYTH #takebackmath'

By Divya Kishore

Updated On : 08:27 PST, Aug 10, 2020



Laurie Rebel (Brooklyn College)

A Brooklyn College professor has said that the idea that math is objective or neutral is a myth. The math educator Laurie Rubel also tweeted that the mathematical equation $2+2=4$ “reeks of White supremacist patriarchy”. She has also received support from several academics at universities and colleges across the country who retweeted and promoted her claims. The tweets from Rubel are part of a trend on social media where a number of math professors and academics from top universities have debated the 'Eurocentric' roots of American mathematics.

“The idea that math (or data) is culturally neutral or in any way objective is a MYTH. I’m ready to move on with that understanding. Who’s coming with me?” Rubel said in a tweet. While in another post, she added: “Along with the ‘of course math is neutral because $2+2=4$ ’ trope and the

related (and creepy) 'math is pure' and 'protect math.' Reeks of White supremacist patriarchy. I'd rather think on nurturing people & protecting the planet (with math in service of their goals)." She also recommended people to read about "mathwashing" by posting a link as well as writing, "or read Cathy O'Neill's work @mathbabadotorg on "Weapons of Math Destruction" or any or all of Rochelle Gutierrez' scholarship."

Harvard PhD candidate Kareem Carr supported Rubel and tweeted: "People say it's subjectivism to ask if math is Western. I don't get that. It's an objective fact that some groups were more involved in the creation of modern math than others. They may have been *trying* to make it objective but it's not stupid to ask if they actually succeeded!" Rochelle Gutierrez, Maths Ed Professor, community activist, frequent user of Creative Insubordination, said: "YES! This attends to the Cultures/Histories dimension of RM (addressing Western/Eurocentric maths). And, we also want to attend to the Living Practice dimension (which is more about imagining a version that builds upon ancestral knowings, but does not yet exist)."

However, there were many people on Twitter who do not seem to be convinced as one wrote, "You're confusing math with data science. Mathwashing is about flawed algorithms and how they are created (by flawed humans). Ewing posits that it is harmful to blindly trust an argument which has a veil of math, since math can be the authority in an appeal to authority fallacy." Another one said: "I refuse to engage with an obviously insane person." "'Teacher' How about this, i will start a gofundme and you an deposit \$100 a day until you figure out math," added third.

More people joined to slam Rubel as a user said, "She is not a mathematician: she has a degree in math education. Big difference. She probably could have gotten an MA but clearly didn't have the chops for the PhD in math." Supporting them, another one questioned her: "If math is not real then how does your computer work? Seriously, how does it fill buffers and draw on your screen if $1+1=(\text{anything})$ or $2+2=5$?" "You are a professor and you don't know the difference between mathematics and computer algorithms? I assume you didn't get a STEM degree?" added user who goes by the name Anarchy Softworks.

'Asinine': Rutgers alters grammar rules for nonwhite students to 'stand' with Black Lives Matter movement

by Emma Colton, Social Media Manager |
July 27, 2020 12:33 PM

English department declared that proper grammar is racist.

"This approach challenges the familiar dogma that writing instruction should limit emphasis on grammar [and] sentence-level issues so as to not put students from multilingual, nonstandard, 'academic' English backgrounds at a disadvantage," department chairwoman Rebecca Walkowitz said. "Instead, it encourages students to develop a critical awareness of the variety of choices available to them [with] regard to micro-level issues in order to empower them and equip them to push against biases based on 'written' accents."

The school's English department will alter its grammar standards to "stand with and respond" to the Black Lives Matter movement, the *Washington Free Beacon* reported.

The department head said that the program will hold "workshops on social justice and writing," will increase the "focus on graduate student life," and incorporate "'critical grammar' into our pedagogy" in the wake of George Floyd's death and the resulting calls to end racism and police brutality.

Walkowitz added that the New Jersey school's graduate writing program will emphasize "social justice" and "critical grammar" in its courses, which will include more reading on subjects related to racism, sexism, homophobia, and "systemic discrimination."

Some have denounced the move as "insulting" and racist because it assumes minority students can't understand correct grammar.

"The idea that expecting a student to write in grammatically correct sentences is indicative of racial bias is asinine," speech pathologist Leonydus Johnson told the *Washington Free Beacon*. "It's like these people believe that being non-white is an inherent handicap or learning disability. ... That's racism. It has become very clear to me that those who claim to be 'anti-racist' are often the most racist people in this country."

The public university made headlines recently after a women's, gender, and sexuality studies professor tweeted, "F--- each and every Trump supporter," while lamenting the disproportionate toll the coronavirus has taken on black lives.

"I feel like most Black people are clear that this utterly absurd to push to re-open the country is all about a gross necropolitical calculation that it is Black people who are dying disproportionately from COVID. Not only do white conservatives not care about Black life, but my most cynical negative read of the white supremacists among them is that they welcome this massive winnowing of Black folks in order to slow demographic shifts and shore up political power," professor Brittney Cooper wrote in April.

Supporters of President Trump "are literally willing to die from this clusterf---ed COVID response rather than admit that absolutely anybody other than him would have been a better president," she added.



QUIZ

Killing Comedy

1. “The world has become too absurd to be satirized” was a line written by whom in 1911?
 - a. Charles Dickens
 - b. G.K. Chesterton
 - c. Mark Twain
 - d. C.S. Lewis

2. Satire _____.
 - a. directly illustrates meaningless ideas
 - b. reflects falsehoods in a humorous manner
 - c. exaggerates the truth to make a point
 - d. fictionalizes an unimportant aspect of reality

3. Another, more intentional and insidious way the Left is killing satire is through censorship.
 - a. True
 - b. False

4. Facebook warned the Babylon Bee that the Bee would be de-platformed if they continued publishing _____.
 - a. real news stories
 - b. offensive photographs
 - c. quality fiction
 - d. fake news

5. Humor is ultimately a vehicle for truth delivery, and the truth can be what?
 - a. opinion
 - b. fictitious
 - c. offensive
 - d. selective



QUIZ: ANSWER KEY

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