

The Silent Clowns

This seven-session class explores the great comedies from the silent film era, and covers the lives and works of the great silent comics illustrated by clips from their greatest films.

1. The Beginnings. Overview on the nature of silent comedy, and history of the earliest films, with clips from the movies of Mack Sennett, Keystone Kops, Mabel Normand and Fatty Arbuckle.
2. Chaplin: The Shorts. Looks at the early career and films of Charlie Chaplin, with clips from Easy Street, The Immigrant, The Kid and The Pilgrim.
3. Keaton: The Shorts. Early career of Buster Keaton, including clips from One Week, The Playhouse, High Sign and Cops.
4. Chaplin: The Features. Covers the later life and career of Chaplin, with clips from The Gold Rush, The Circus, City Lights and Modern Times.
5. Keaton: The Features. Covers the later life and career of Keaton, with clips from Sherlock, Jr., Our Hospitality, Seven Chances, The Navigator, The General, Steamboat Bill, Jr. and Spite Marriage.
6. Harold Lloyd—His silent films, with clips from Safety Last, The Freshman, Kid Brother, For Heaven's Sake and Speedy.
7. The last comics. Discussion of Harry Langdon—with clips from The Strongman and Long Pants, and the underappreciated silent films of Laurel and Hardy, with clips from Battle of the Century, Two Tars, You're Darn Tootin', and Big Business.