

**Spring 2019**  
**PHIL 4450, Section 01**  
**Philosophy of Humor**  
**First Paper Assignment**  
**Prof. Douglas Ficek**

*Write a paper, six-to-eight pages in length, on one of the following topics – preferably the one that you find the most interesting. Revise your work carefully, and remember to cite your sources correctly using APA, MLA, or Chicago guidelines. Your typed and stapled essay is due at the beginning of class on Wednesday, March 13th.*

1. What is the superiority theory of humor? Who are its key defenders, and who are its key critics? What do you make of this theory? Please use three additional sources in your discussion.
2. What is the incongruity theory of humor? Who are its key defenders, and who are its key critics? What do you make of this theory? Please use three additional sources in your discussion.
3. What is the relief theory of humor? Who are its key defenders, and who are its key critics? What do you make of this theory? Please use three additional sources in your discussion.
4. What is John Morreal's "New Theory of Humor," and how does it relate to the three dominant theories of humor? What do you make of his theory? Please use three additional sources in your discussion.
5. What, according to John Marmysz, is "nihilistic incongruity," and how does it relate to laughter and humor? What do you make of his theory? Please use three additional sources in your discussion.
6. What does Liz Sills argue in "The Epistemology of the Funny," and how does it relate to the three dominant theories of humor? What do you make of her theory? Please use three additional sources in your discussion.