HUMA 592: Seriously Funny

Wednesdays 3:10 – 6:00 PM      Murkland Hall G-18

Specific editions of the books required for purchase and use in class sessions are available at the Durham Book Exchange. If you purchase on line, the odds are that you won’t have one or more items in time to meet our class schedule and you may get the wrong edition):


Kushner, Tony.  Angels in America, Parts One and Two. Paperback drama.


Other materials to be studied (as listed below) will be presented in class as films/videos, with the requirement that each be reviewed in the Media Center, where you can live-stream them on a monitor. You are encouraged to rent the DVDs from Netflix or buy inexpensive copies on line, according to your interests and your budget.

Essays and the final paper will be discussed in class and tips on how to do research and write critical essays will be posted on Blackboard and/or sent via e-mail.

August 29: Introduction to the Course Concept:  “SOS!” (1940- Video);

The Skin of our Teeth (1939—Video).

September 5: Discussion: The Sin of Our Teeth.(Pp. 1-121)

When Cultures Collide: How to read Green Grass, Running Water. (Pp. 1-57)

September 12: Green Grass, Running Water, Discussion &Let Yourself be Chosen.(Pp.57-262)

September 19: Green Grass, Running Water, Time with the One Who Chose You.(Pp. 263-469)

September 25: Due today: Essay #1 by e-mail no later than 11:59 PM.

September 26: The Fire This Time: Dr. Strangelove (Video); Handling Handling Sin.

October 3: Handling Sin: The Call and The Quest begins. (Prologue – Chapter 16)

October 10: Handling Sin: The Quest continues . (Chapters 17 – 27)

October 17: Handling Sin: The Return .(Chapters 28 – 37.)

October 23: Due today: Essay #2 by e-mail no later than 11:59 PM.
October 24:  The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe (Video and discussion)

October 21:  Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches.

November 7:  Angels in America, Part Two: Perestroika.

November 14:  Angels in America, final discussion.

**November 27:** Due today: Essay #3 by e-mail no later than 11:59 PM.

November 28:  The Best of All Possible Worlds: Candide (Video)

December 6:  Discussion: Candide; A Visitation; Course Evaluations.

**December 15:** Due today: Final Essay, submitted as a MSWord.doc attached to an e-mail to

Robert.Stiefel@unh.edu  no later than 11:59 PM, Friday, December 15.