Before Kevin Hart there was Bert Williams. Before Will Ferrell, Buster Keaton. The comedy film stars we know and love today are shaped by over a hundred years of history and tradition. How did vaudeville and theatre performances make the transition from stage to screen? What types of comedy were popular during the first few decades of film? What can these first movies tell us about American ideologies of race, gender, sexuality, and class? This course will explore these questions and more!

*A day without laughter is a day wasted.*

**For more information**
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