Contents

Preface and Acknowledgments ix

1. Introduction and Overview 1
   How Can We Determine a Person’s “Sense of Humor”? 1
   Chapter Overviews 3
   Points of Departure 12

2. Anthropology and Ethnic Studies 13
   African-American Humor 14
   American Indian Humor 16
   Gaelic Humor (Irish, Scottish, and Welsh) 19
   Hispanic Humor 22
   Jewish Humor 24
   Points of Departure 26

3. Irony, Parody, and Satire in Art 28
   Caricatures and Cartoons 30
   Comics, Comix, and the Graphic Novel 34
   A Historical Perspective 36
   Points of Departure 40

4. Business 43
   Management and Marketing 43
   Today’s World of Marketing 50
   Humor to Relieve Tensions 51
   Points of Departure 53

5. Computer Science 55
   How the Digital Age Is Changing Humor 61
   Humor as Self-Defense 64
   Cooperative Humor 65
   Laughing at Digital Media 65
   New Ways to Watch Humor on “TV” 66
   Points of Departure 68
vi CONTENTS

6. Education and Children’s Literature 69
   Age Differences: Teachers vs. Students 72
   Humor across the Generations 74
   The Values of Humor in Education 75
   Children’s Television 77
   Children’s Literature 78
   Points of Departure 83

7. Gender Studies 85
   The Humane Humor Rule 86
   Humorous Names for Males and Females 90
   Feminist Humor 91
   Points of Departure 93

8. Geography 95
   Humorous Place Names 95
   Points of Departure 106

9. Gerontology 109
   Points of Departure 116

10. History 121
    New Opportunities for Minorities 122
    Historical Drama 124
    Current Sitcoms 126
    Folk Humor as History 127
    Points of Departure 133

11. Journalism 136
    Spin in Today’s Political News 136
    The Legacy of “The Yellow Kid” 139
    Changing Times in Journalism 140
    Erma Bombeck and Art Buchwald 141
    The Web vs. Newsprint 145
    Obituaries: Newspapers vs. Online Stories 146
    Points of Departure 149

12. Law 150
    Legal Humor: A Historical Perspective 151
    Humor and Governance 151
    The Light Side of Legal Humor 152
    Jokes about Lawyers 153
    Parody Case: Hustler vs. Jerry Falwell 155
    Judge Judy 158
    Who Owns a Tweet? 160
    Funny State Laws 161
    Points of Departure 163
CONTENTS

13. Linguistics 164
   Horation vs. Juvenalian Satire 165
   Funny Scripts 166
   English Language Learners 174
   Points of Departure 175

14. Literature 177
   Humor in Harry Potter 182
   Humorous Schemes and Tropes 184
   Humorous Allusions to Children’s Literature 189
   Points of Departure 191

15. Medicine and Health 193
   Patch Adams: A Cultural Icon 197
   Humor and Our Bodies 199
   How Medical Practitioners Joke 200
   Points of Departure 204

16. Music 205
   Emotional Effects of Music 205
   Musical Theater 206
   Novelty Songs on the Radio 208
   Action Songs 209
   Satire and Parody 210
   Historical Musical Humor 210
   Personal Tastes in Music 212
   Humorous Composers 213
   Points of Departure 216

17. Names 218
   Humorous Lexicalizations and Eponyms 219
   Four Processes of Language Change 220
   Humorous Eponyms 221
   Changing Your Name 223
   Young Adults Changing their Names 224
   Funny and Not-So-Funny Name Changes 225
   The Humorous Recycling of Names 226
   Humorous Commercial Names 227
   Anthony Weiner and His Name 228
   Points of Departure 232

18. Performing Arts: Theater, Dance, and Music 234
   The Gilbert and Sullivan Operas 234
   Irony, Satire, and Parody in the Movies 238
   Darker Humor in the Movies 242
   Points of Departure 246
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Miracle of Language</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Speech Organs</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A Universal Theory of Humor</td>
<td>251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ambiguity and Vagueness in Language</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A Philosophical Joke about a Chicken</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What Philosophers Say about Humor</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Points of Departure</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Physical Education and Sports Mascots</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Good Sports and Language Play</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sports Mascots: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A Historical Note about American Indians</td>
<td>272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Points of Departure</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Jokes that Impeached a Governor</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Political Humor on Late-Night Television</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Points of Departure</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Development of Humor Appreciation</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A Comic Vision vs. a Tragic Vision</td>
<td>295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Humorous Traits, States, and Behaviors</td>
<td>296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Health Psychology</td>
<td>299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Humor Styles Questionnaire (HSQ)</td>
<td>301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sarcasm</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cruel Practical Joking</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Points of Departure</td>
<td>307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Accidental Religious Humor from Children</td>
<td>313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Humor to Relieve Mild Religious Stress</td>
<td>316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Expanding Ecumenical Considerations</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Points of Departure</td>
<td>319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Rhetoric and Composition</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ethos, Pathos, and Logos – Tough, Sweet, and Stuffy</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grice’s Cooperative Principle</td>
<td>323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Errors vs. Rhetorical Devices</td>
<td>326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Points of Departure</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clowns</td>
<td>334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Humor and Hostility</td>
<td>341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Scary Clowns of 2016</td>
<td>342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Points of Departure</td>
<td>347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Bibliography</strong></td>
<td>349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Index</strong></td>
<td>367</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>