Humor, Kultur, Gesellschaft

YES, Germans DO have a sense of humor!!

Humans have always had the urge to laugh, smile, joke, and play. We have also employed humor as a way to subvert, challenge, and critique cultural and social situations. Humor in the broadest sense can serve as a productive access point into better understanding a foreign language and appreciating one’s own cultural traditions. For example: Being able to tell a joke in a foreign language implies a sophisticated knowledge of the mechanics of that language as well as insight into the "Nationalcharakter" of the foreign culture. In this course students will explore the many textual, visual, and acoustic manifestations of humor as a form of intercultural and interpersonal communication as evidenced in diverse genres such as drama, poetry, prose, fairy tales, film, music, television, and advertisements from the nineteenth century to today.