Greek and Roman Comedy

Old Comedy  from about 450 BCE (beginning of Greek democracy) to mid-4th century
  Dyonisian revelry
  Abuse and invective
  Use of chorus, poetic devices, verbal elegance
  Concern with the polis
  Aristophanes, Cratinus, Eupolis

Middle Comedy  early 4th century
  Less use of chorus, satire

New Comedy  late 4th century to mid-3rd century BCE
  No chorus
  Romantic plots, young lovers, family conflicts
  Obstacle figures—father, doctor, braggart soldier
  Menander
  Adapted by Plautus, Terence in Rome and Renaissance playwrights