

TELEVISION STUDIES

(ACADEMIC YEAR 2011-2012)

DEGREE YEAR: 3RD **CREDITS:** 6 **SEMESTER:** 2ND

INSTRUCTOR GROUP 40: Concepción Cascajosa Virino

DEPARTMENT: Journalism and Audiovisual Communication

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CLASS SCHEDULE: Thursday (12:30-13:30, 13:45-14:45), Room 17.1.4.

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday (10:00-11:00), Thursday (17:00-18:00). Room 17.2.32, by email appointment only.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course "Television Studies" is devoted to the main theories and analytical approaches to television from a variety of socio-cultural, historical, industrial, programming and creative perspectives. The course has a theoretical basis and therefore has a reduced two hours of class per week. Practical works and readings (which will be available in "Aula Global" platform) are compulsory throughout the semester.

The learning objectives of the course are:

1. Ability to understand and assimilate television from an academic perspective.
2. Knowledge of the main theories and methodologies in the study of television.
3. Ability to apply various theories and methodologies to the production of television programs.
4. Understanding the social function exercised by television and its importance for the understanding of contemporary cultural change.

5. Ability to accomplish a medium-sized research in the field of Television Studies.

MAIN TOPICS

- I. Television, Culture and Society.
- II. Introduction to Television Studies.
- III. Technology and the History of Television.
- IV. Television and History.
- V. Television Aesthetics.
- VI. Television Institutions and Authorship.
- VII. Television Audiences: Consumption and Fandom.
- VIII. Television, National Identity and Globalization.

GRADING BREAKDOWN

Theoretical work:

- Exam: 6 points. In order to pass this course, it is required to get at least 3 points (50% of the maximum grade) in the exam. The readings available in the "Aula Global" platform are required for the exam.

Practical work:

- Group presentation in class (around 15 minutes): 2 points. After the presentation, each group must submit a 2000-word paper about the preparation of the presentation, a selection of the materials used in its development, conclusions and bibliography. One member of each group has to send the instructor an email with the names of the students of the group. The topic of the presentation and date will be provided by mail. A review meeting with the instructor about a week before the presentation is compulsory.

- Individual essay "TV, Me & Myself": 2 points. The paper deals with the student's personal relationship, based on experience and memory, with television. It can be presented in two forms: written (3500-word paper) or documentary short (optional work for the course of "Documentary

Videomaking", 6-7 minutes). Deadline: May 3rd. A review meeting with the instructor to discuss the essay is compulsory.

Each student will know the grading of the practical work, according to the University rules, before the examination period. For students who are unable to attend the course because they are working or in an international exchange program, it is strongly recommended to rely solely on the Extra Exam in June, where they can get 100% of the grade without the practical work.

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: Introduction to the Course, Syllabus and Schedule.

In-class Screening: "La televisión y yo", a documentary by Andrés DiTella (in Spanish with English subtitles).

Reading of the week: M Horkheimer y T Adorno ("The Culture Industry").

WEEK 2: Television, Culture and Society (I)

In-class Screenings: Clips of "The Outer Limits", "Dr. Who", "Poltergeist" and "Videodrome".

Reading of the week: P Bordieu ("On Television").

WEEK 3: Television, Culture and Society (II)

In-class Screening: Clips of "Murder by Television", "A Face in the Crowd", "Network" and "Black Mirror".

Reading of the week: N Minow ("Television and Public Interest").

WEEK 4: Introduction to Television Studies.

In-class Screening: TBA.

Reading of the week: S Hall ("Encoding, Decoding") y G Creeber ("The Joy of Text").

WEEK 5: Technology and the History of Television.

In-class Screening: "The Hour".

Reading of the week: S Lacey ("UK TV History").

WEEK 6: Television and History I: Making History.

In-class Screening: "The Eagle Has Landed" and "Moon Landing in CBS".

Reading of the week: P. Taylor ("TV, Draft of History").

WEEK 7: Television and History II: Changing History.

In-class Screening: "CBS News Remembers 9/11: What We Saw".

Reading of the week: M Palacio ("Television and Franco").

WEEK 8: Television and History III: Showing History.

In-class Screening: The Television Biopic ("Einstein and Eddington", "John Adams", "Carlos")

Reading of the week: J. Jacobs ("Television Archive").

WEEK 9: Television Aesthetics.

In-class Screening: Fragments of TV Series, Video Art Works and Music Videos.

Reading of the week: S Cardwell ("Television Aesthetics").

WEEK 10: Television Institutions and Authorship I: The Case of Dennis Potter.

In-class Screening: TV Works by Dennis Potter ("Pennies From Heaven", "The Signing Detective", "Lipstick on Your Collar", "Cold Lazarus").

WEEK 11: Television Institutions and Authorship II: The Case of Steven Bochco.

In-class Screening: TV Works by Steven Bochco ("Colombo", "Hill Street Blues", "Cop Rock", "Over There").

WEEK 12: Television Audiences: Consumption and Fandom.

In-class Screening: "The Road to *Coronation Street*", Episode of "ALF" about TV ratings.

Reading of the week: H Jenkins ("Textual Poaching - Star Trek").

WEEK 13: Television, National Identity and Globalization.

In-class Screening: Clips of television remakes (“The Office”, “Life on Mars”, “Skins”).

Reading of the week: B Lippert ("Bettyer Way of Success").

RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Allen, RC (2004): *The Television Studies Reader*. Routledge, New York.

Bignell, J (2004): *An Introduction to Television Studies*. Routledge, New York.

Casey, B & Calvert, B (2008): *Television Studies: the Key Concepts, Second Edition*. Routledge, New York.

Corner, J (1999): *Critical ideas in Television Studies*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Creeber, G (2006): *Tele-Visions: an Introduction to Studying Television*. British Film Institute, London.

Miller, T. (2002): *Television Studies*. London: British Film Institute.

Miller, T (2009): *Television Studies: the Basics*. Routledge, New York.

Newcomb, H (2004): *The Museum of Broadcast Communications Encyclopedia of Television*, 2nd Edition. Routledge, New York.

Newcomb, H (2006): *Television: The Critical View. An Anthology of Television Criticism, Seventh Edition*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Vande Berg, L R. & Gronbeck, BE (1998): *Critical Approaches to Television*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston.

Wickman, Phil (2007): *Understanding Television Texts*. London: British Film Institute.