

Intro to Television Studies

English 110

Fall 2013

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to Television Studies. Students will learn important aspects of the history and theories of screen culture, as well as how to analyze and interpret television texts and contexts. Coursework emphasizes analytical essay writing about the formal and thematic aspects of television. By the end of the term, students will have the basic skills necessary for a critical knowledge of television.

This course satisfies the Arts & Letters group requirement.

Goals:

- Gain basic understanding of television aesthetics
- Learn TV studies vocabulary
- Develop skills to write and talk critically about television

Needed:

- Jeremy Butler's *Television: Critical Methods and Applications*
- Access to your UO e-mail and a Dropbox account (all assignments will be turned in via Dropbox)
- Subscription to the course blog
- A Hulu Plus account (we'll talk more about this in class)

Attendance:

Attendance is **REQUIRED**. **You may miss 2 classes** (I take attendance every class, but please keep track of your absences!) without it affecting your grade. A third absence will lower your final course grade by ½ a grade. If you miss a **4th class you automatically FAIL** the course without notice. No exceptions. Frequent tardiness will also be counted as an absence.

You are responsible for what you miss in that class. **Do not** send me an e-mail asking about what you missed.

Students may “make up” missed classes by turning in a 4-page paper that describes, in detail, what was discussed in class during the missed day. This requires obtaining the notes of *at least 2* classmates and piecing together the missed lecture/class discussion from these notes and from discussions with classmates (i.e., NOT me). The paper should discuss the missed reading *and* all viewing material. This paper **MUST** be turned in within 2 weeks of the missed class. This is the **ONLY** way to “make up” a missed class. You must take care of obtaining notes from classmates on your own. After 2 weeks, the absence will be counted. You may submit no more than 2 of these papers per term. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY.**

Expectations:

- This is an English Department course and as such **your writing will meet the highest standards**. I will pay attention not only to your ideas but how those ideas are presented. This means that I will pay careful attention to your writing and you will be graded on it.
- Format: Unless otherwise noted, all work must be typed, in 12 point Times New Roman (or another reasonable font; turn in an assignment in Comic Sans or Wingdings and you fail), one-inch margins and all work will be turned into your Dropbox folder by the time and date noted in the schedule of assignments (usually midnight each Friday). Failure to meet these formatting requirements can lower your grade.

- Active participation is required. To facilitate discussion, **you need to read the assigned** material before class (and be sure to bring the reading to class) and take notes while watching the television programs.
- **No cell phones. No texting. No Facebook. No side conversations. No Dots. No PvZ2. No Minecraft.** It is vital that students respect the classroom and each other. Consistently disrupting the class (falling asleep, talking while others are trying to talk, allowing a phone to ring, texting, checking Facebook or e-mail during class, arriving late or leaving early, etc.) will result in an absence (which I will just mark down—consider this note your warning as you will *not* be notified during class) or I will ask you to leave class for the day.

Assignments:

All individual assignments are posted on the blog. See “Assignments” in the sidebar menu on the left side of the page. You can click on “assignments” to read about my expectations in more detail or hover over the link to see a sub-menu pop up with each assignment listed individually.

Mini Close Readings: 1-paragraph close-readings due at end of the week in which they’re assigned. These short answers will respond to a specific question about a formal element or topic. 10% each (x4 = 40%)

Midterm: Take-home Midterm Exam 25%

Take-Home Final Exam: Take home Final Exam 30%

Participation: Quizzes, talking, paying attention, being respectful, etc. Participation is required (occasionally I will take roll via participation) 5%

Late Work/Extensions:

I do not accept late work. The only exceptions to my late work policy are documented emergencies. However, **if you need an extension** please come talk to me at least 24 hours before the assignment is due. I am much kinder and more understanding if you let me know that you believe you require an extension *ahead of its due date*. I will require you to document your need for an extension and set a new due date.

If you miss a deadline and cannot document the emergency you are not expected to submit the work. Do the math to determine how it will affect your grade.

Email Policy:

I will respond to your email within 48 hours during the week. If you email me and two days (weekends *do not count*) pass with no reply, please email me again with a friendly reminder that you have yet to receive a reply to your message.

If your emails do not contain a salutation, clear message, and closing (with your full name), I will ignore them. Pro tips can be found [here](#).

Technology Clause:

Servers crash. Printers malfunction. Passwords are forgotten or stolen. I will do my best to be understanding of any digital hiccups we may encounter together, but you also need to anticipate these problems and leave yourself a cushion of time in which you can formulate a plan B when assignments or emails are due. “My printer/university

email/roommate's 2002 Gateway laptop ate my homework" will not keep me from marking your assignment as late.

Academic Honesty:

All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. Please consult *Rules for Writers* for a definition of plagiarism and information on documentation, and refer to the Student Conduct Code on the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards

website: <http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode/tabid/69/Default.aspx>. In cases where academic dishonesty has been clearly established, the award of an F for the final course grade is the standard practice of the English department. Please see me if you have any questions about your use of sources.

When in doubt, err on the side of over-citing.

Access for Students with Disabilities:

If you have a disability (physical or learning), which you think may affect your performance in this class, please see me during the first week of the term so we can make arrangements, if necessary, for your full access to all classroom activities.

I reserve the right to change/adjust/add to/delete from the schedule below. For complete course policies, click [here](#).

NOTE: **October 7th** is the last day to process a complete drop or reduce credits and receive 75% tuition refund (no W recorded; after this date, Ws are recorded for partial and [complete withdrawals](#)). **October 27th** is the last day to process a complete withdrawal or reduce credits and receive a 25% tuition refund (mark of W is recorded). **December 8th** is the last day to process a complete withdrawal from all courses.

Week & Topic	Tuesday	Thursday	DUE: Friday at midnight
Week 1 (Oct 1): introductions, mise en scene, etc.	Watch: <i>The Hills</i> , S03E20 Read: Amanda Ann Klein's " The Hills, Jersey Shore, and the Aesthetics of Class "	Watch: <i>Gossip Girl</i> , S06E06 Read: Butler chapter 7 and " The Genius of Gossip Girl "	Close reading #1
Week 2 (Oct 8): Formal analysis: cinematography	Watch: <i>Nashville</i> pilot Read: " It's Just a Movie " by Greg Smith	Watch: <i>Scandal</i> pilot Read: Butler chapter 8	
Week 3 (Oct 15): Formal analysis: editing	Watch: <i>Mad Men</i> pilot Read: " Don Draper Has a Toothache " by Molly Lambert	Read: Butler chapter 9 and complete in-class quiz	Close reading #2: shot list
Week 4 (Oct 22): Sound, narrative, & plot	Watch: <i>Paperman</i> and <i>The Vampire Diaries</i> (episode TBA) Read: Butler chapter 10	Watch: <i>Scandal</i> , S01E02 Read: Butler, chapter 2	
Week 5 (Oct 29): Family sitcoms	Watch: <i>New Girl</i> , S02E15 , <i>All in the Family</i> pilot , and <i>The Cosby Show</i> pilot Read: TBA	MIDTERM EXAM	
Week 6 (Nov 5): Funny Ladies	Watch: <i>I Love Lucy</i> , S01E30 , <i>Modern Family</i> , S04E13 , and <i>All-American Girl</i> pilot (part 1 ; part 2) and clips Read: TBA	Watch: <i>The Mindy Project</i> , S01E14 and <i>Roseanne</i> , S05E20 Read: TBA	
Week 7 (Nov 12): Serial television	Watch: <i>True Blood</i> pilot Read: Emily Nussbaum, " When TV Became Art "	Watch: <i>True Blood</i> , S01E02 Read: Jason Mittell, " Narrative Complexity "	Close reading #3: outline
Week 8 (Nov 19): Trash TV and guilty pleasures	Watch: <i>Pretty Little Liars</i> pilot and <i>Teen Mom 2</i> (S04E05)	NO CLASS: Thanksgiving	
Week 9 (Nov 26): Reality TV, part 1	Watch: <i>American Idol</i> and clips from <i>Star Search</i> and <i>The Voice</i> Read: TBA	Watch: <i>Survivor</i> pilot and <i>The Bachelor</i> S15E01 and S15E12 Read: TBA	Close reading #4: guilty pleasures assignment

Week 10 (Dec 3): Reality TV, part 2	Watch: <i>Keeping Up with the Kardashians</i> and <i>Jersey Shore</i> Read: TBA	Watch: <i>Here Comes Honey Boo Boo</i> and <i>Duck Dynasty</i> Read: TBA	Take home final exam due 8am Monday, December 9th
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