COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course aims to provide an introduction to television studies and American TV history. However, it is by no means all-inclusive (there is just so much to choose from!). Rather the course is constructed to give a survey of various important topics in television studies from its earliest forms and genres to recent programming, like *The Wire* and the *Real Housewives* shows. We will talk about early television history, the development of cable and quality television, television and the civil rights movement, different TV genres, and formal analysis, among other topics. Hopefully, in this course you will see programs you might not otherwise come across and the aim is to provide you with the basics to talk and think about television. We will not have time to cover talk shows (like *Oprah* or *Ellen* or *The View*), nor we will have much time to discuss topics like sports, current news stations, or spend time on sit-coms. However, if you are interested in any of these topics feel free to come talk with me.

COURSE GOALS:

Gain basic understanding about TV history and TV studies.
Learn TV studies vocabulary.
Develop skills to write and talk critically about television.

REQUIRED TEXTS:


All other readings will be posted or linked on the blog or e-mailed to you (make sure you have access).

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is REQUIRED. You may miss 2 classes (I take attendance everyday, but please keep track of your absences!) without it affecting your grade. Any further absences will lower your final course grade by ½ a grade/per absence. If you miss over 4 classes you automatically fail the course. You are responsible for what you missed in that class. If you want to discuss what you
missed, please come to office hours but do not send me an e-mail asking me about what you missed. I will respond by suggesting you come to office hours and get notes from another student.

Attendance in this class is extremely important as the class is part discussion based (and the quarter moves quickly). To receive credit for attendance requires you to be on time, awake, and ready for class at 8am sharp. If you are more than ten minutes late, it counts as a half-absence. Furthermore, you must be present in class to turn in your work (ie your friend/roommate/etc. cannot turn in your work for you).

IN-CLASS WORK & PARTICIPATION:

No Cell phones. No Texting. No Internet use. No side conversations. In this class, it is vital that you are fully prepared for class, participate in-class, and engage actively in discussions. Being fully prepared means having read and completed assignments prior to class and being prepared to engage in discussions and activities (despite the insanely early class time). It is vital that students respect the classroom as a place dedicated to learning. Thus, 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 a half-absence (which I will just mark down—consider this note your warning as you will not be notified during class).

PS Feel free to bring coffee and/or breakfast to class, if you think it will help you stay wide awake.

LATE WORK/EXTENSIONS

Late work will only be accepted for two days after it is due (but you will lose a ½ grade for every day it is late) and after that you will receive a “O” for that assignment. I do not accept assignments via email. 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 will require you to document your need for an extension and set a new due date (usually via e-mail).

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 Composition Program. Please see me if you have any questions about your use of sources.

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.

REGISTRATION STATEMENT:

The only way to add this class is through DuckWeb.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADE BREAKDOWN

Annotations (15%): For each reading assignment and TV show we watch you are required to write up one paragraph/per reading/TV show.

Papers (35%): 2 Short Papers over the course of the term. More specific instructions will be posted on the blog.

Midterm Exam (20%): You will have an in-class exam during Week 5.

Final Exam (25%): Exam during Finals Week.

Participation (5%): You are required to participate in class discussions. If you do not feel comfortable talking in class, please come chat with me in office hours during the first week.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENTS
(I reserve the right to change this schedule at any point during the term)

Week 1: Introduction to TV & TV Studies

TUES Introductions/Go over Syllabus/Intro to TV Studies

THURS Discussion/TV Vocabulary
   Reading: CHAT Intro & Mittell (Blog)

Week 2: The 1950s & Keeping up with the Joneses

TUES Reading: CHAT Chpt. 3 & pp. 125-140
   Screening: *I Love Lucy* & *The Goldbergs*

THURS Reading: Excerpts from *Cold War, Cool Medium* (E-mai)
   Screening: *See It Now (McCarthy)*
   Recommended: *Good Night & Good Luck*
Week 3 1950s-1960s: Rise of the Western & the Space Race

TUES Reading: CHAT Chpt 5 & Spigel, “White Flight” (E-mail)
Screening: Have Gun, Will Travel

THURS Screening: The Jetsons & I Dream of Jeannie

PAPER #1 DUE IN CLASS

Week 4 1960s-1970s: Kennedy/Nixon, Civil Rights. etc

TUES Televising the Presidency
Reading: CHAT Chpt. 6
Screening: Nixon/Kennedy debates & Kennedy Assassination and Funeral

THURS Civil Rights & TV
Reading: CHAT 237-251
Screening: Crisis: Behind a Presidential Commitment

Week 5: The 1970s & Midterms

TUES MIDTERM EXAM

THURS Medical Dramas & Wartime
Reading: CHAT 260-284
Screening: M*A*S*H

Week 6: The 1980s

TUES CHAT Chpt. 8
Screening: Dallas (Pilot)

THURS MTV & Miami Heat
Reading: Karlyn (blog) & Lyons (E-mail)
Screening: Miami Vice

Week 7: The 1990s

TUES Reading: Elana Levine Intro & “Buffy and the ‘New Girl Order’” (E-mail)
Screening: Buffy the Vampire Slayer
Recommended: Northern Exposure and Law & Order
THURS Screening: *X-Files*

**PAPER # 2 DUE IN CLASS**

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**Week 8: 9/11 & The War on Terror**

**TUES** Reading: CHAT 375-389 & NY Times (Blog)
Screening: *24* (Pilot)

**THURS** Reading: *The West Wing* Intro (Blog)
Screening: *The West Wing*

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**Week 9 2000s: Quality TV & Narrative Storytelling**

**TUES** Reading: “When TV Became Art” by Emily Nussbaum (Blog) & CHAT pp 360-375
Screening: *The Wire* (Pilot)

**THURS** Reading: “HBO and the Concept of Quality TV” (e-mail) & “Narrative Complexity in Contemporary American Television” by Jason Mittell (Blog)
Screening: *The Wire* (Episode 2)
Recommended: *The Sopranos, Six Feet Under* (Pilot) & *True Blood* (Pilot)

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**Week 10 Reality TV & Quality Housewives**

**TUES** Bravo’s Reality Revolution
Reading: Salon and Jezebel Articles (Blog) & Jane Feuer (E-mail)
Screening: *Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*

**THURS** TV on the Internet/Convergence
& Final Exam Review
Read: CHAT Chpt 12

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**Finals Week**

**FINAL EXAM**
FORMATTING AND COMPLETION OF ASSIGNMENTS:
(See Sample Paper formatting)

- All written work must include your name, the date, the course number, and instructor (i.e. my name).
- All essays must have an original title.
- All work must be stapled, double spaced, with one inch margins, and must be typed using 12-point Times New Roman font.
- All work must be printed, stapled, in proper format, and ready to turn in by the beginning of class. There are several computer labs on campus (that all have staplers), if you do not have access to your own computer/printer, use these labs.

Assignment Formatting: All assignments must be typed and formatted like this.

Student Name
Assignment (i.e. Essay 2.A)
Date you are turning it in

Neo-American Feminism in Lost

Television has been doing its part for feminism for quite a while now (or at least trying to appeal and market to a strengthening female audience). The women of CSI work with equal talent and stomach-strength as the men, and the so-called (without irony) “Sex and the City girls” shocked the world, not with their clothes, their sex lives, or their conversations, but by legions of friends, wives, and girlfriends saying, “Oh yeah, that’s what we’re like when we’re together.” Following this trend, Lost may be the first adventure drama to feature more than one “token female” who’s capable of hanging with the guys. Kate (Evangeline Lilly) and Ana-Lucia (Michelle Rodriguez) are the physical, intellectual, and emotional equals of the stranded alphas such as Jack (Matthew Fox), Sayid (Naveen Andrews), and Locke (Terry O’Quinn).

However, as seen in the episode “Maternity Leave,” Lost depicts more “traditional” women (in a very contemporary sense) in Sun (Yoonjin Kim) and Claire (Emilie de Ravin), a South Korean and an Australian, respectively … Etc.
Checklist:
* 1” margins.
* 12 point font, Times or Times New Roman.
* Indented paragraphs, with no extra space between each one.
* Single space top left info, double space the rest of text.
* Title!!!
* Page numbers (In MS word, click on ‘insert,’ ‘page numbers,’ ‘ok.’)
* Always, always, always have your papers stapled!!!
* Please, no cover pages.
* *Italics* for books, movies, collections, CDs/albums, etc.; “quote marks” for essays, chapters, poems, songs, short stories, etc.