This course analyzes situation comedies written and made by women. Reading sitcom scripts, sitcom criticism, and the words of women sitcom producers, we watch and rewatch episodes and routines, studying television theory and history from the perspective of a focus on women writers, directors, editors, and other TV artists.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES | PRACTICE: 1) reading literary and cultural texts with discernment and comprehension and with an understanding of their conventions 2) drawing on cultural and historical information to situate texts within contexts 3) performing critical, formal analyses of sitcom episodes and other cultural texts 4) writing focused analysis in clear, grammatical prose 5) employing logic, creativity, and interpretive skills to produce thoughtful, persuasive commentary and questions.

Prof. Miller
qmmiller@uoregon.edu
office hours: M 3 - 5 pm
W 11:30 am - 12:30 pm, PLC 447

* Course materials, including **readings to be completed by the beginning of each class meeting**, are available (as PDFs and through URLs) on Canvas.

- attendance  
  w1-10 discussion 10  
  * Missing more than three classes lowers your grade.
  Fourth/fifth missed meetings carry a 4 point penalty.
  Six or more class absences prevent you from passing.

- Ww4 exam1 20  
  Ww7 exam2 30  
  * Exams ask for names + concepts (with fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice, matching, + essay questions).

- Mw8 essay topic 10  
  Fw10 final essay 30  
  Submit a 1-page explanation of the topic you choose.
  Craft a thoughtful, revised, proofread 5-page paper.

Research topics for your essay include: any women writers of sitcom episodes and/or the framing devices in “Anniversary,” “Anxiety,” and/or “Lorenzo’s Oil? No Linda’s.”
The Dick Van Dyke Show

course schedule
subject to change

w1
W 10/2 “Father of the Week”
F 10/4 “Your Home Sweet Home is My Home”

Moesha; The Parkers

w2
M 10/7 “Sara Finney-Johnson Wrote for ... on Her Way to Creating Moesha”
W 10/9 Von Oy, Situation Momedy
F 10/11 Braxton, “Co-Creator of TV Hit Moesha Fired”

w3
M 10/14 “Lumbar Support and Old Pork,” Mom
W 10/16 “Anniversary,” Everybody Loves Raymond
F 10/18 “Anxiety,” One Day at a Time

w4
M 10/21 -review-
W 10/23 exam 1
F 10/25 -review-

Family Matters

w5
M 10/28 “Family Matters,” tvtropes.org
W 10/30 women-authored Family Matters scripts
F 11/1 Friar, “Family Matters Fans Are Devouring Episodes on Hulu”

Fresh Off the Boat

w6
M 11/4 “A League of Her Own” screening
W 11/6 script; “Fresh Off the Boat’s Very Special Coming Out Episode”
F 11/8 “A League of Her Own,” “A League of Her Own,” “… A Home Run”

w7
M 11/11 -review-
W 11/13 exam 2
F 11/15 -review-

Living Single?; webseries

essay topic due Monday

w8
M 11/18 Jones, “Fight To Keep Maxine”; Willis, “Won’t Include Maxine”
W 11/20 Warner, “Where Do We Go From Here?”
F 11/22 -review-

w9
M 11/25 “Lorenzo’s Oil? No Linda’s,” Bob’s Burgers
W 11/27 essay research and revising: scripts and screenwriters -review-
F 11/1 no class

w10
M 12/2 final discussion
no final exam
bring final essay to class Monday
* Let the professor know as soon as you can of any accommodations you may need.

**Content Warning** *

Texts under study include cissexism, representations of racism and sexism, and heterosexist social mores and assumptions, as well as highly charged humor. Contextual material may include slurs, nudity, sex, reference to sexual assault and harassment, and misgendering. If this material, or representations and discussion of sensitive issues such as expressive sexuality, social variance, sex work, discrimination, oppression, and social and sexual taboo transgression may present a problem for you, please let the professor (and/or the group) know. Material may appear without notice of content. You can leave for trigger mitigation.

**Expectations** * Read, re-read, and study all assigned texts in preparation for class. * Prepare questions and comments for discussion. * Bring notes and materials to meetings. * Respect people’s space, backgrounds, contributions, names, pronouns, and frames of reference. * Derogatory and dehumanizing language will be avoided.

**policies** | Your final grade drops if you miss more than three class meetings. After three, each absence will lower your final grade four points. All assignments must be submitted in order to pass the course. Do your best to contact the professor at least two days in advance if you determine a need to ask for an extension. Essay grades drop a full mark for every day past due. You are responsible for meeting Student Conduct Code and Community Standards.

Students who observe religious holidays at times when academic requirements conflict with those observances must inform instructors in advance of the holiday. Students are responsible for making up missed work according to a schedule determined with their instructor. | If bad weather or an emergency requires cancelling a class, I will notify you by email or put a note on the door. | Always use your own discretion in class + en route.

The UO is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and harassment. UO has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. UO’s goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources you need. If you wish to speak to someone confidentially: 541-346-SAFE.