

## **TV 110 Foundations of Television**      Syllabus

Meeting time :            Tuesday/Thursday 11:50am – 1:20pm  
Location:                 CDM, 243 S. Wabash, 206  
Instructor:               Nick Schmidt  
Office:                    14 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite LL103-B  
Office Hours:            Tuesday/Thursday 11:00am – 11:45am  
Contacts:                [nschmid5@cdm.depaul.edu](mailto:nschmid5@cdm.depaul.edu)    312-362-6255

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION and LEARNING OUTCOMES**

This lecture-discussion course provides an introduction and framework of the history of television production. Evolving story forms will be examined from television's beginnings to the present. Developments in story and production styles will be analyzed and discussed.

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to identify important events in the history of television that propelled its evolution, and/or had a significant impact in society. Students will be able to analyze and interpret forms of television storytelling, composition, and editing. Students will be able to compare the structure of basic television genres. Finally, students will be able to recognize production elements of a television show and create a basic pitch presentation for an original program.

### **Changes to Syllabus**

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class and sent via email.

### **Required Text**

*Television and American Culture* by Jason Mittell  
ISBN-13: 978-0-19-530667-5

Supplemental readings will be provided.

You are also invited to examine the following magazines that report on the newest developments in this thriving industry: Variety and The Hollywood Reporter

## Grading

Your grades are based upon active class participation and attendance, completion of assignments when due and quality of work.

Attendance & Participation -	40 points
Written Responses to Reading -	30 points
Final Project -	30 points
Total =	100 points

A= 100-93, A-= 92-90, B+= 89-87, B=82-80, C+= 79-77, C= 76-73, C-= 72-70, D+= 69-67, D= 66-63, D-= 62-60, F= 59-0

### **Attendance & Participation**

40 points available. 20 classes. 2 points available each class.

Punctuality, cooperation, and active class participation are expected.

### **Written Responses to Reading**

30 points available. 12 responses. 2.5 points available each response.

Grades are based on completion of responses when due and quality of work.

### **Final Project**

30 points available.

Specific parameters for this project will be given in class.

Grades are based on completion of project when due and quality of work.

### **Class Schedule and Course Outline**      subject to change

Week 1	TH 9/8	Introduction, Syllabus. Why Television?
Week 2	TU 9/13	Introduction, Syllabus. Why Television?
	TH 9/15	Television Institutions: Exchanging Programming <u>Assignment</u> : Read Mittell, Intro and Ch. 1, response #1
Week 3	TU 9/20	Television Institutions: Exchanging Audiences <u>Assignment</u> : Read Mittell, Ch.2, response #2
	TH 9/22	Television Institutions: Serving the Public Interest <u>Assignment</u> : Read Mittell, Ch. 3, response #3
Week 4	TU 9/27	Television Institutions: Televised Citizenship <u>Assignment</u> : Read Mittell, Ch. 4, response #4
	TH 9/29	TBD

Week 5	TU 10/4	TBD
	TH 10/6	Television Meanings: Making Meaning <u>Assignment:</u> Read Mittell, Ch. 5, response #5
Week 6	TU 10/11	Television Meanings: Telling Television Stories <u>Assignment:</u> Read Mittell, Ch. 6, response #6
	TH 10/13	Television Meanings: Screening America <u>Assignment:</u> Read Mittell, Ch. 7, response #7
Week 7	TU 10/18	Television Meanings: Representing Identity <u>Assignment:</u> Read Mittell, Ch. 8, response #8
	TH 10/20	TBD
Week 8	TU 10/25	TBD
	TH 10/27	Television Practices: Viewing Television <u>Assignment:</u> Read Mittell, Ch. 9, response #9
Week 9	TU 11/1	Television Practices: Television For Children <u>Assignment:</u> Read Mittell, Ch. 10, response #10
	TH 11/3	Television Practices: Television's Transforming Technologies <u>Assignment:</u> Read Mittell, CH. 11, response #11
Week 10	TU 11/8	American Television in a Global Context <u>Assignment:</u> Read: Mittell, Conclusion, response #12
	TH 11/10	TBD
Week 11	TU 11/15	TBD
	TH 11/17	No Class – Finals Due

## Attendance

Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration. Coming 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early constitutes an absence for the student. Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course.

In order to petition for an excused absence, students who miss class due to illness or significant personal circumstances should complete the Absence Notification process through the Dean of Students office. The form can be accessed at <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/dos/fprms.html>. Students must submit supporting documentation alongside the form. The professor reserves the sole right whether to offer absence and/or academic accommodations for an excused absence.

## **Class Discussion**

Student participation in class discussions will be measured in two ways. First, students are highly encouraged to ask questions and offer comments relevant to the day's topic. Participation allows the instructor to "hear" the student's voice when grading papers. Secondly, students will be called upon by the instructor to offer comments related to the reading assignments. Students must keep up with the reading to participate in class discussion.

## **Attitude**

A professional and academic attitude is expected throughout this course. Measurable examples of non-academic or unprofessional attitude include but are not limited to: talking to others when the instructor is speaking, mocking another's opinion, cell phones ringing, emailing, texting or using the internet whether on a phone or computer. If any issues arise a student may be asked to leave the classroom. The professor will work with the Dean of Students Office to navigate such student issues.

## **Civil Discourse**

DePaul University is a community that thrives on open discourse that challenges students, both intellectually and personally, to be [Socially Responsible Leaders](#). It is the expectation that all dialogue in this course is civil and respectful of the dignity of each student. Any instances of disrespect or hostility can jeopardize a student's ability to be successful in the course. The professor will partner with the Dean of Students Office to assist in managing such issues.

## **Cell Phones/On Call**

If you bring a cell phone to class, it must be off or set to a silent mode. Should you need to answer a call during class, students must leave the room in an undistruptive manner. Out of respect to fellow students and the professor, texting is never allowable in class. If you are required to be on call as part of your job, please advise me at the start of the course.

## **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>. If you have any questions be sure to consult with your professor.

## **Academic Policies**

All students are required to manage their class schedules each term in accordance with the deadlines for enrolling and withdrawing as indicated in the [University Academic Calendar](#). Information on enrollment, withdrawal, grading and incompletes can be found at:

<http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/PoliciesandProcedures.aspx>

## **Students with Disabilities**

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential.

To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at: [csd@depaul.edu](mailto:csd@depaul.edu).

Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.

Phone number: (312)362-8002

Fax: (312)362-6544

TTY: (773)325.7296

## **Online Course Evaluations**

Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over three weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online in [CampusConnect](#)