

## **FOUNDATIONS OF TELEVISION (AUTUMN 2016)**

TV 110

MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS (11:50 – 1:20)

243 South Wabash Ave. #206

Instructor: Christopher Parrish

Office Hours: Tuesdays (12:55 – 5:25) \*Making appointments in advance strongly encouraged\*

Office: CDM465

Email: [cparrish6@cdm.depaul.edu](mailto:cparrish6@cdm.depaul.edu)

Office #: (312)362-5534

### **TYPE OF INSTRUCTION:**

Lectures, Powerpoint presentations, screenings, readings and lab work with peers.

### **COURSE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM:** D2L

### **SOFTWARE:** Microsoft Word (preferred)

**MATERIALS:** Internet access and Access to scripted television content (ex. Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, Apple TV) Most viewing will be in class and provided by instructor. If you are late or absent from class, it is your responsibility to access and view the content on your own.

**REQUIRED READING:** Television and American Culture by Jason Mittell. Copyright 2010. Any additional reading material will be provided by instructor and found on D2L.

### **WITHDRAWAL DROP DATES:**

September 20, 2016 – Last day to drop classes with no penalty.

October 25, 2016 – Last day to withdraw from Autumn Quarter classes.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This 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. Professionals from different sectors of the Chicago television industry will speak to the class in panels.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon completion of this course, student will successfully:

- Identify important events in television history (in programming content and technology) which had significant impact on American society

- Gain a full comprehension of a television program's basic content and production elements
- Create pitches, as a team and as an individual, for the student's own original television project
- Compare and contrast the tropes and structure of various television genres
- Gain a basic understanding of the commercial television business and its evolution

**PREREQUISITE:**

None

**REQUIREMENTS:**

Class participation is mandatory.

**DEADLINES:**

**MEETING DEADLINES IS ABSOLUTELY VITAL.** Without a valid documented medical excuse or legitimate family emergency, assignments and quizzes must be turned in on time or no points will be awarded for late work.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

**All written assignments must be typed in 12 pt. Courier font in a pdf file and posted on D2L.** Scripts should also be free of spelling, grammatical and punctuation errors, unless the dialogue or storyline otherwise calls for it. **Please make certain all assignments include your name, the course title and number and the date of the assignment due.**

**EMAILS:**

Please sign your first and last name with any email you send. I check my email every day and should have a response for you within 24 hours. **My email is cparris6@cdm.depaul.edu**

**POLICY ON PEER TO PEER CRITICISM:**

If or when there is something you dislike about a classmate's opinion or work, it is your obligation to express it. But more importantly, it is your responsibility to express why it is you think so respectfully and suggest a way to fix it. At the same time, the person receiving constructive criticism from their peers will do so in a polite, non-defensive and professional manner.

**GRADE BREAKDOWN:**

Written Essay #1: 5%

Written Essay #2: 10%

Quiz #1: 10%

Quiz #2: 20%

Midterm Group Presentation: 15%

Final Presentation: 30%

Class Participation: 10%

**Extra Credit: 10%**

Grading Standards:

Letter Grade	Minimum % of Total Points	Letter Grade	Minimum % of Total Points
A	92	C+	78
A-	90	C	72
B+	88	C-	70
B	82	D+	68
B-	80	D	60
		F	0

Course Calendar:**9/7/2016 - Week #1: "In the Beginning... Inspiring Images and Disgusting Displays."**

Introductions. Syllabus. Early Days of Television. First network transmissions.

WRITTEN ESSAY #1: Letter of Protest

**SEE RUBRIC FOR INSTRUCTIONS**

Due: 9/12 by 11:30am

**9/12 - 9/14 - Week #2: "Pioneers of Television"**

The Goldbergs, Playhouse 90, Rod Serling and Lucy.

READING: I Love Lucy chapter on D2L

VIEWING: Rod Serling interview -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8sT6nz7VUM>**9/19 - 9/21 - Week #3: "The Changing Business of TV"**

How television shows are sold, created and the evolving revenue streams.

CBS Ditches Country for Cosmo, Netflix No Peaking at Numbers

Pitching Season: The Art of the TV Pitch

Life of a Showrunner

READING: (Pgs. 17-35) and (Pgs. 46-81) Television and American Culture

QUIZ #1 DUE on 9/26 **QUIZ TO BE POSTED ON D2L**

**9/26 - 9/28 - Week #4: "Serials, Anthologies, Episodics and Procedurals"**

How television scripts are structured (Dramas, Sitcoms, Animation)

What are the beats?

Structure. How many acts in a sitcom and a drama?

What is an A Story? A B Story? A Running Gag?

Is there an average number of scenes?

Act breaks. When do they come?

What about an animation script?

How long should my script be?

How long should my scenes be?

Storylines and running gags.

Soap Operas to STRANGER THINGS

LOVE AMERICAN STYLE to EASY (Netflix)

THE BRADY BUNCH to MODERN FAMILY

DRAGNET to LAW & ORDER

ASSIGNMENT: Midterm Presentation

DUE: on 10/5 (GROUP A) & 10/10 (GROUP B) **SEE RUBRIC FOR INSTRUCTIONS**

**10/3 - 10/5 - Week #5: "The Lack of Reality in Reality TV"**

The Louds to The Kardashians

Quiz Shows, Talk Shows and a General Lack of Reality

READING: Pgs. (86-97), (244-247), (255-258) Television and American Culture

10/5: Midterm Presentation (GROUP A)

**10/10 - 10/12 - Week #6: "The Political Influence of The Idiot Box"**

10/10: Midterm Presentation (GROUP B)

10/12:

Nervous Nixon vs. Pretty Boy Jack

Walter Cronkite & Vietnam on TV

Jon Stewart vs. FOX NEWS

Tina Fey Can See Russia from Her House!

Is/Can the Media Be Unbiased?

WRITTEN ESSAY #2: The Moment That Moved You on TV **SEE RUBRIC FOR INSTRUCTIONS**

**DUE: Monday, 10/17 by 11:50 AM**

### **10/17 - 10/19 - Week #7: "Censorship: Holy Beeping Beep"**

When Commerce Clashes with Controversy  
What's Crossing the Line? (Then and Now)  
The Smothers Brothers  
Janet Jackson's Wardrobe Malfunction  
Norman Lear  
South Park & Scientology  
Seth MacFarlane & Everybody  
The Enterprise finds a loophole in space  
The Star Trek Kiss Heard Round the Galaxy  
Battlestar Galactica & Iraq

Sharing the TV Moments That Moved You

READING: Pgs. (100-124) (269-303) Television and American Culture

### **10/24 - 10/26 - Week #8: "Women Transforming Television"**

Rose Marie to Liz Lemon  
Carol Burnett to Amy Schumer  
The Writers' Room (Almost No Girls Allowed) -Let's check IMDB  
The Rise of Oprah A.M. Chicago to The O Network  
Shonda Rhimes  
Melissa Rosenberg  
New writers fellowships busting down the door  
READING: Pgs. (329-344)

### **and "Hey, Kids! It's Children's Television!"**

Bozo and Local Kids TV of Yesteryear  
When Saturday Mornings Were for Cartoons  
Sesame Street (Mr. Hooper dies, 911, AIDS, PBS to HBO)  
Mr. Rogers Goes to Washington  
Schoolhouse Rock  
He-Man & The Masters of Selling Toys  
Dora the College Thesis  
READING: Pgs. (383-401)

**QUIZ #2 SEE RUBRIC FOR INSTRUCTIONS**

**DUE: Monday, 10/31 by 11:50 AM**

### **10/31 - 11/2 - Week #9: "The Future of TV & Workshopping"**

Streaming vs. Traditional TV (Pros & Cons)  
From Beta to Bingewatching  
What are the trends? (Content & Technology)  
D.I.Y. TV - Louis C.K. & Horace and Pete  
Breaking into the TV Business  
SIGN UP LIST FOR FINAL PRESENTATION

## WORKSHOPPING YOUR OWN SERIES TO PITCH FOR FINAL PRESENTATION

DUE DATES: (GROUP A - 11/7; GROUP B 11/19; GROUP C 11/20)

ASSIGNMENT: FINAL PRESENTATION **SEE RUBRIC FOR INSTRUCTIONS**

### **11/7 - 11/9 - Week #10: "I'M SO GLAD WE'VE HAD THIS TIME TOGETHER"**

GROUP A PRESENTATIONS - 11/7

GROUP B PRESENTATIONS - 11/9

### **11/14 - Week #11: "That's All Folks!"**

GROUP C PRESENTATIONS - 11/14

## **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, posted under Announcements in D2L and sent via email.

## **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](#).

## **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

**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. The overall grade for participation drops one-third after any absence. Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course.

**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.