



FILM 105

403

Foundations of Television

Autumn 2019-20

Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:10 to 11:40
am

Instructor: Jose A. Soto

Room: CDM 206

Course Management System: D2L

Office Hours: Mondays, 5 to 6.30pm &
Wednesdays, 2 to 5pm

Office Telephone: (312) 362-5846

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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.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course students will:

- Identify important events in the history of television that propelled its evolution, and/or had a significant impact in society.
- Recognize the basic content production elements of a television show, and create a basic pitch presentation for an original program.
- Compare the structure of basic television genres.
- Distinguish the basic principles of the business of television.

Reading:

Required: Mittell, Jason (2010) **TELEVISION AND AMERICAN CULTURE**; Michael Wiese Productions. ISBN-13: 978-0195306675; ISBN-10: 0195306678

You are also invited to examine the following magazines that report on the newest developments in this thriving industry:

VARIETY

THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

The lectures will be supplemented with handouts from the instructor over the course of the quarter.

Grading:

Final grades will be based on 2 written reports, 2 quizzes, a mid-term presentation, a final presentation, class participation and attitude. Because it has to present shows on time every hour of every day, television is one of the most demanding industries, this charge carries over



to those who are preparing for it, which is why missed deadlines will result in assignment failure (0%).

Quiz 1 – 10%:

Quiz 2 – 10%:

2 Written Reports: - 20%

Midterm Presentation – 20%

Final Presentation – 30%

Participation – 10%

All assignments must be typed and free of grammatical, spelling and punctuation errors. It's your work; you're responsible for its quality.

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 Policies:

1. Participation

At this level, students should be interested in the subject of the course. The only way to see this is through participation in class, either asking questions or adding constructive comments to other student’s presentations and the instructor lectures.

2. Attendance

It does not constitute a specific part of your grade, but perfect attendance is required. Most of the information you need to complete your assignments will be discussed in-class; also examples of what you have to do will be given there. Subjects and/or assignments will not be discussed outside of the programmed sessions. This makes attendance critical, and thus not an issue to be negotiated. However, if you have to miss a class or a deadline, make sure to plan ahead, and inform the instructor in



advance. Calling in advance does not automatically excuse an absence or a missed deadline, but it is the only way to present your case. If you fail to communicate before the next class period to explain an absence or a missed deadline, they will not be excused. Please note that work, non-emergency medical and dental appointments, hangovers, intramural games, visitors from out of town, fixing your roommate's computer, fraternity/sorority events, arguments with boyfriends or girlfriends and studying for other classes do not constitute excused absences or missed assignments.

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/forms.html>. Students must submit supporting documentation alongside the form. The professor reserves the sole right whether to offer an excused absence and/or academic accommodations for an excused absence.

3. Tardiness

One true thing in all professional fields is the lack of tolerance for tardiness. Employers do not generally tolerate such behavior, and employees who offer weak, irritating excuses frequently find themselves unemployed and unemployable. We will be working under the same rules.

Remember it is your responsibility to make the arrangements when a deadline or a class has to be missed. I will treat you professionally, expecting of you a responsible attitude. This means that it is you who must be worried about solving the problem, not me.

4. Missed Assignments

Since television creation is a cumulative effort, if you fail to turn in any of the assignments you will fail it with 0%. There will be no exceptions. This is a zero-tolerance policy. I have no time or patience for those who are not going to take this class seriously. Many students have flunked my courses for this reason. If you cannot make it a priority to complete all assignments, you better consider not taking this course. One more thing, turning-in an assignment does not guarantee you will have a passing grade, although the opposite will be true: Not turning them in will fail you inevitably.

5. Attitude

We are going to be spending a lot of time discussing other student's or your own work. This will be made in an orderly fashion, no matter how vehemently we feel for an argument, we have to be able to provide it in a disciplined manner. It is better to wait and later speak than not speaking at all. My evaluation of your attitude and attention will be based on your participation during discussions, as much as it will be based on your assertiveness when making a comment. Students who are not insightful enough to value the learning opportunities inherent to this class tend to do poorly.

6. Use of Technology

Cellular phones and other similar devices will not be tolerated. In my mind, they are a clear indication of a bad attitude. I recommend students to turn off or switch to silence mode such devices. If your other commitments are so pressing that they cannot wait until the end of the session, it may be in your best interest to reconsider the priority you place on being here. In any case, students whose phones and/or computers make noise during class will be asked to leave immediately.

7. Uncivilized Behavior

Even though you are students who must constantly thrive to grow, we need to start acting professionally. This is why there will be no tolerance for uncivilized behavior. I require an orderly ambiance to be able to make the most of each session.

By accepting this syllabus, you are indicating that you understand my expectations for students concerning attitude and work ethic.

I reserve the right to drop any student with an F (0%) if he/she has excessive absences (more than four, and if he/she misses any of the presentation dates), engages in disruptive behavior, has a poor attitude, or in any other way is clearly not taking the class seriously.

8. Ethics

Although your grade does not contain an ethics component like some other courses, I require complete honesty in producing your work. By accepting this syllabus, you are indicating that you understand the seriousness of academic dishonesty and realize I will impose the harshest sanctions possible if I can prove you have engaged in such behavior. You are also indicating that you understand what constitutes academic dishonesty; I will not tolerate an excuse that claims the student did not know he/she was engaging in academic dishonesty.



9. Plagiarism

Plagiarism, cheating and/or fabrication will not be tolerated. They are serious offenses – both in course and in media careers. Thus, I reserve the right to drop any student with an F (0%) if he/she engages in any form of academic dishonesty. I further reserve the right to recommend other sanctions as may be appropriate.

Plagiarism is useless to you anyway. By having someone else do the work for you, you are missing an opportunity to immerse yourself in the television industry. You are also waiving your right to learn. If you are willing to do that, then you have to evaluate if it's worth the aggravation and the time you invest in this course.

More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>.

10. Withdrawal

Students who withdraw from the course do so by using the Campus Connection system <http://campusconnect.depaul.edu>. Withdrawals processed via this system are effective the day on which they are made. Simply ceasing to attend, or notifying the instructor, or nonpayment of tuition, does not constitute an official withdrawal from class and will result in academic as well as financial penalty.

11. Retroactive Withdrawal

This policy exists to assist students for whom extenuating circumstances prevented them from meeting the withdrawal deadline. During their college career students may be allowed one medical/personal administrative withdrawal and one college office administrative withdrawal, each for one or more courses in a single term. Repeated requests will not be considered. Submitting an appeal for retroactive withdrawal does not guarantee approval.

College office appeals for CDM students must be submitted online via MyCDM.

The deadlines for submitting appeals are as follows:

Autumn Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent winter quarter

Winter Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent spring quarter

Spring Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent autumn quarter

Summer Terms: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent autumn quarter

12. Special Accommodations:

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should inform 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:

Student Center, LPC, Suite #370

Phone number: (773)325.1677

Fax: (773)325.3720

TTY: (773)325.7296

13. Emergency Plan:

An emergency can occur at any time, suddenly and without warning. Proper planning is essential to minimize the impact of any emergency on the university community, operations and facilities. The following link provides detailed information on Emergency Evacuation and Fire Alarm safety: <https://resources.depaul.edu/emergency-plan/emergency-evacuation/Pages/Evacuation.aspx>. The University will use the DPU Alert to announce school closing or other emergencies. In the event of an emergency evacuation, the primary outdoor assembly area for CDM will be Grant Park (Southeast corner of Jackson and Michigan Ave).

14. Preferred Name & Gender Pronouns:

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the quarter so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. Please also note that students may choose to identify within the University community with a preferred first name that differs from their legal name and may also update their gender. The preferred first name will appear in University related systems and documents except where the use of the legal name is necessitated or required by University business or legal need. For more information and instructions on how to do so, please see the Student Preferred Name and Gender Policy at <http://policies.depaul.edu/policy/policy.aspx?pid=332>

Course Organization and Schedule:

We will meet at the CDM Building, Room 206, Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:10 to 11:40 am. We will start by answering questions that students may have regarding the content of the class or upcoming assignments. Then, we will proceed to the lectures or student presentations. Towards the end of the class we will leave a few minutes to answer specific questions of the projects you will be handling or the content reviewed in class.



This syllabus is subject to modification; there may be several circumstances that will most likely change it. I reserve the right to amend the class schedule, or the syllabus, if circumstances make it necessary. You may receive at least one revised syllabus or schedule before the quarter is over. If assignments or deadline dates change, I will inform you well in advance. Constantly reviewing D2L announcements and emails is recommended for these purposes.

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Week 1		
Session 1	11-Sep-19	Intro
Week 2		
		ORIGINS OF TELEVISION
Session 2	16-Sep-19	Creation of TV
Session 3	18-Sep-19	The Shift to Filmed TV
Week 3		
		THE BIZ
Session 4	23-Sep-19	How does TV network work?
Session 5	25-Sep-19	How is a TV show done? <u>Homework: Introduction and Chapter 1-Quiz 1 (available from Sep 27th to the 29th at 11.30pm)</u>

Week 4		PROFITS	
Session 6	30-Sep-19	Ratings	
Session 7	2-Oct-19	Trends: Commercial, Niche / The Pitch	
Week 5		TV CONTENT: FICTION	
Session 8	7-Oct-19	Drama	
Session 9	9-Oct-19	Comedy	
Week 6		TV CONTENT: NON FICTION	
Session 10	14-Oct-19	News	
Session 11	16-Oct-19	Documentary / Reality	<u>Homework: Chapter 2-Quiz 2</u> (available from Oct 18 th until Oct 20 th at 11.30pm)
Week 7			
Session 12	21-Oct-19	Presentations 1	<u>Written Component of Presentation</u>
Session 13	23-Oct-19	Presentations 2	
Week 8			
Session 14	28-Oct-19	Presentations 3	
Session 15	30-Oct-19	Gender on TV	<u>Homework: Chapter 8-Paper 1</u>
Week 9			
Session 16	4-Nov-19	Politics, Culture & Society on TV	
Session 17	6-Nov-19	<i>No Class</i>	
Week 10		THE FUTURE OF TV	
Session 18	11-Nov-19	<i>No Class</i>	
Session 19	13-Nov-19	Distribution Platforms / What is TV?	
Week 11			
Session 20	18-Nov-19	Final Presentations 1	<u>Homework: Chapter 9-Paper 2 +</u> <u>Written component of presentation.</u>
Final Exam	20-Nov-19	Final Presentations 2 (Final exam takes place from 8:30am to 10:45am on that day)	