

FOUNDATIONS OF TELEVISION – Fall 2016

TV 110 (Section 102)

Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:00pm to 2:30pm.

Levan Center room 305

Instructor: Nathan DeWitt, MFA

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays: 12:00pm to 1:00pm (Lincoln Park). Thursdays: 12:30pm to 1:30pm and 4:45pm to 5:45pm (Loop). I am in and out of my office frequently during office hours so please let me know if you will be stopping by. I'm also available by appointment.

Lincoln Park Office: TBD, Loop Office: CDM 616

ndewitt@cdm.depaul.edu

Course Management System: D2L.

Prerequisites: NONE.

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.

Learning Outcomes will be met through lectures, viewings and readings on the history and story structure principles of many television forms and measured via written papers, pop quizzes and a midterm exam.

Online Course Management System:

D2L: <https://d2l.depaul.edu/d2l/home> Here students will find lecture slides, lecture videos, links to streams of the episodes for this course and any other relevant information they may need. This is where students will upload your assignments for this course. Login with Campus Connect information.

Homework:

All assignments for this course must be typed and submitted on D2L. **NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED! Homework is not accepted via email unless there is a malfunction with D2L. Please do not send me assignments via email unless I ask for them first.**

Reading:

Recommended but NOT required: Mittell, Jason (2010) Television and American Culture; Michael Wiese Productions. ISBN-13: 978-0195306675; ISBN-10: 0195306678

Required reading: You are expected to keep up with Television industry trade publications, such as VARIETY and THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER. The contemporary television industry is in a constant state of flux and we'll begin each week discussing the latest news from around the industry. You are expected to stay current on this news and contribute to discussions regularly.

Grading:

Final grades will be based on written reports, 2 quizzes, a mid-term presentation, a final presentation, class participation and attitude. Television is a business built on timeliness: the news must be ready every day at 5pm, SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE must be ready to go every Saturday at 11:30pm. As such, this course demands strict adherence to deadlines. **NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED.**

Homework: - 10%

Quiz 1 – 15%:

Quiz 2 – 15%:

Midterm Presentation – 20%

Final Presentation – 30%

Participation – 10%

Grading Scale: (based on %)

A: 92 -100 A-: 90-91.9

B+: 88-89.9; B: 82 -87.9; B-: 80-81.9

C+: 78-82.79.9; C: 72-77.9%; C-: 70-71.9

D+: 68-69.9%; D: 60-67.9%; Below 60% is an F

THE SCHEDULE

Classes meet at 1:00pm on Mondays and Wednesdays in Levan Center Room 305. Class will run until approximately 2:30 every day. Please be on time.

This syllabus is subject to modification. I reserve the right to amend the class schedule or the syllabus if circumstances make it necessary. For example, you will have written homework assignments beyond those listed on the schedule. These will be assigned by the professor as the course progresses.

WEEK ONE (September 7 and September 12)

Origins of Television

WEEK TWO (September 14 and September 19)

The "Biz": How it works. Development: how'd this show get on the air?

Homework: Structure of a show and network: Who they are, and what they do.

WEEK THREE (September 21 and September 26)

The "Biz": How it profits.

Ratings, how are they measured?

Historical ratings. Trends.

Quiz 1

WEEK FOUR (September 28 and October 3)

Television Content: Fiction

Midterm Project assigned

WEEK FIVE (October 5 and October 10)

Television Content: Non-fiction

WEEK SIX (October 12 and October 17)

Midterm Presentations

Final Project assigned

WEEK SEVEN (October 19 and October 24)

Women and Culture in TV

WEEK EIGHT (October 26 and October 31)

Politics and Society in TV

Quiz 2

WEEK NINE (November 2 and November 7)

The Future of TV

Development Workshop

WEEK TEN (November 9 and November 14)

Final Project Presentations

Course Policies:

Participation

Students are expected to participate in all class discussions by asking questions, adding comments or constructive criticism of creative work.

Attendance

Attendance is part of your class participation grade. You are expected to attend all class periods. You get ONE unexcused absence for the Quarter. Should 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, the absence will not be excused and the work will not be accepted. 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, being too stoned to come to class and/ or being busy studying for other classes are not grounds for excused absences or missed assignments.

Tardiness

Tardiness, both in this course and in life, demonstrates utter disrespect for other people's time. Respect is crucial in this course, both in our discussions and our behavior. Class begins at 1pm and you are expected to be in your seat and ready to begin class at that time. After 1:15pm, you will not be allowed into the room and you will be marked as absent that day. Please be on time.

Missed Assignments

Missing work is treated as a 0. Late work is not accepted except under rare circumstances in which a student has a good reason to need an extension and has been proactive in pursuing one.

Attitude

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. Respectful decorum is expected at all times in this course, particularly when we discuss politics and each others' creative work.

Use of Technology

Do your best to stay off your phone in this course. Please make sure your phone is silenced. Be advised that if I see you on your phone it virtually guarantees you'll be called on next.

Ethics and Honor

Although your grade does not contain an ethics component, honesty is expected in this course. You are expected to do your own 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.

You are also expected to be respectfully honest when discussing the work of your peers. If you find fault in a student's work, you are expected to express this sentiment politely. Furthermore, please don't badmouth other students in this course or their work on public forums such as social media.

College Policies

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](#).

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.

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

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: cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment.

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.

Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.

Phone number: (312)362-8002

Fax: (312)362-6544

TTY: (773)325.7296