

FILM 105-405
Foundations of Television

Instructor	Kaitlin Creadon	Email	kcreadon@depaul.edu
Classroom	CDM Center 216	Class Time	TuTh 10:10-11:40 AM
Office Hours	Loop: CDM 632A T/Th 9-10 AM, 12-1:15 PM Lincoln Park: Student Center 332 Th 3:45-5:45 PM		

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.

Required Reading:

Mittell, Jason (2010) Television and the American Culture; Michael Wiese Productions
ISBN-13: 978-0195306675; ISBN-10: 0195306678

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

<https://variety.com/v/tv/>

Recommendations: Sign up for **Daily Newsletter**, **Morning TV Report**, and **Tune In**
<http://link.hollywoodreporter.com/join/38o/thr-signup>

Recommendations: Sign up for **TV News & Ratings** and **The Live Feed**

We will use the first several minutes of every class to go over media news you read during our "Daily Report". You will be responsible for keeping up with this as you could be asked what you found interesting or informative in your readings regarding the television business.

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

Required Viewing:

There are multiple times you will be asked to view a show outside of class. It is recommended you have a Netflix and Hulu account for these, or share with someone who has one.

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Grading:

Final grades will be based on the following breakdown:

Attendance and Participation (Includes Daily Report)	20%
Written Report 1	10%
Written Report 2	10%
Quiz	10%
Midterm Presentation	20%
Final Presentation	30%
Total	100%

Grading Scale

A = 100-93, A- = 92-90, B+ = 89-88, B = 87-83, B- = 82-80, C+ = 79-78, C = 77-73, C- = 72-70, D+ = 69-68, D = 67-63, D- = 62-60, F = 59-0.

A indicates excellence, B indicates good work, C indicates satisfactory work, D work is unsatisfactory in some respect, F is substantially unsatisfactory work

Class Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory for *all* class periods. Anyone who misses three classes will automatically drop a whole letter grade. A warning email will be sent at this time. Anyone who misses four or more classes will automatically fail. You get **one** excused absence with proper documentation and proof.

Each class consists of lectures, discussions, and screenings. The class is participatory and the instructor's material and concepts are presented during class meetings. 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 after any absence. Absence does not excuse deadlines. If you have a foreseeable conflict, or you end up sick the day of, **you need to contact me via email before the start of class** so we can discuss options. Make necessary arrangements to have the absence documented by the Dean of Students Office.

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.

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Respect in the Classroom

- Do not sleep. If you sleep for more than 15 minutes you will be considered absent.
- Please be respectful of everyone's opinions, tastes, and beliefs.
 - We do not have to agree on everything, but we should be able to discuss anything civilly.
- Please respect the films we'll watch, several of which will have mature themes and situations.
 - During screenings, please do not talk and keep all comments and observations to yourself.

Email

Email is the primary means of communication between faculty and students enrolled in this course outside of class time. Students should make sure their email listed under "demographic information" at <http://campusconnect.depaul.edu> is correct. Some guidelines for your emails:

- Be clear and concise in your subject line; ex: "FILM 105 – Topic".
- Don't reply to class-wide email unless it pertains specifically to the subject of that email.
- Begin a new email thread for any new question, notification, etc.
- 24 hour maximum response time during the week, 48 on weekends.

Course Online - D2L

You must use D2L to submit all assignments. Access to the site at <https://d2l.depaul.edu/> using your Campus Connect login and password. Course documents, updates to the course, lecture slides, important information, and other news will be posted there. Be sure to check D2L regularly.

Use of Technology

Cell phones and computers are NOT allowed during the lecture or screening. Pen and paper are highly recommended for taking notes during the lectures and the screenings. All phones must be kept silent.

Any type of screen-use during the film viewings, for any duration, in class **will** affect your participation grade. 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. You wouldn't use either in a movie theater, so don't do it here.

Writing Help

I strongly encourage all students to make use of the University Center for Writing-based Learning (aka The Writing Center). It is a free service provided by the University that will help ensure your assignments are of the highest quality. To learn more about the services they offer, visit their website: <http://condor.depaul.edu/writing/what/Writing%20Center/wc.html>

I also highly recommend downloading *Grammarly Free Assistant* onto your computer. Points **will** be taken off of writing assignments for 3 or more grammar and spelling issues.

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Academic Integrity This course will be subject to the faculty council rules on the Academic Integrity Policy which can be viewed at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>.

Online Instructor Evaluation

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.

Plagiarism

The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course, as well as all other courses in which independent research or writing play a vital part in the course requirements, should be aware of the strong sanctions that can be imposed against someone guilty of plagiarism. If proven, a charge of plagiarism could result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion. The strongest of sanctions will be imposed on anyone who submits as his/her own work a report, examination paper, computer file, lab report, or other assignment which has been prepared by someone else. If you have any questions or doubts about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials be sure to consult the instructor.

Ethics

Although your grade does not contain an ethics component like some other courses, I require complete honesty in producing your work. 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.

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.

Resources for Students with Disabilities

Students seeking disability-related accommodations are required to register with DePaul's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) enabling you to access accommodations and support services to assist your success.

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There are two office locations:

Loop Campus – Lewis Center #1420 – (312) 362-8002

Lincoln Park Campus – Student Center #370 – (773) 325-1677

Students who are registered with the Center for Students with Disabilities are also invited to contact me privately to discuss how I may assist in facilitating the accommodations you will use in this course. This is best done early in the term. Our conversation will remain confidential to the extent possible.

Course Organization and Schedule:

We will meet at the CDM Building, Room 216, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:10 to 11:40 AM. We will start with our “Daily Report”, in which students will talk about television entertainment news they found interesting. Be prepared, because you could be called on if no one volunteers. Then, we will proceed to the lectures, screenings, discussions, and/or student presentations.

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.

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CLASS	TOPIC	SCREENINGS	READING/SCREENINGS DUE FOR FOLLOWING CLASS	HOMEWORK DUE ON THIS DATE
<u>Class 1</u> Thursday 9/12/19	Introductions and Syllabus		Book: Introduction and Chapter 1 (Exchanging Programming)	
<u>Class 2</u> Tuesday 9/17/19	Origins/Creation of Television Radio Vaudeville The Shift to Filmed TV			
<u>Class 3</u> Thursday 9/19/19	How does a TV network work? How is a TV show done? Single-Cam vs Multi- Cam		<i>Emmy Awards</i> (FOX, 7 PM)	Emmy Awards on FOX, Sept. 22 nd D2L Survey to be finished by 9/22 at 5 PM
<u>Class 4</u> Tuesday 9/24/19	Ratings, Trends: Commercial, Niche			
<u>Class 5</u> Thursday 9/26/19	News, Morning Shows, Late Night, Documentary, Reality Introduce Midterm Presentation	-Today -60 Minutes -Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj -United Shades of America with W. Kamau Bell		
<u>Class 6</u> Tuesday 10/1/19	Variety and Sketch			
<u>Class 7</u> Thursday 10/3/19	Variety and Sketch	-The Ed Sullivan Show -Your Show of Shows -Saturday Night Live	Book: Chapter 2 (Exchanging Audiences)	
<u>Class 8</u> Tuesday 10/8/19	Drama, Procedural Drama, and Miniseries Time to work on Midterm Presentations		<i>The West Wing</i> (Netflix – <i>Two Cathedrals</i>) <i>Fosse/Verdon</i> (Hulu – <i>Life is a Cabaret</i>)	
<u>Class 9</u> Thursday 10/10/19	Drama, Procedural Drama, and Miniseries Structure	<i>Downton Abbey</i> (1.01)	Book: Chapter 5 (Making Meaning)	

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<u>Class 10</u> Tuesday 10/15/19	Midterm Presentations Part 1			All Presentation Deliverables Due to D2L by 9:30 AM
<u>Class 11</u> Thursday 10/17/19	Midterm Presentations Part 2			
<u>Class 12</u> Tuesday 10/22/19	Remaining Midterm Presentations Part 3 Sitcoms		<i>Fresh Off the Boat</i> (Hulu – <i>Mo’ Chinese Mo’ Problems</i>) <i>M*A*S*H</i> (Hulu – <i>Dear Dad</i>)	
<u>Class 13</u> Thursday 10/24/19	Sitcoms Structure	<i>Ellen (The Puppy Episode)</i>		“Cracking the Sitcom Code” Document
<u>Class 14</u> Tuesday 10/29/19	Women in TV Introduce Final Presentation		<i>The Mary Tyler Moore Show</i> (Hulu – <i>The Snow Must Go On</i>) <i>30 Rock</i> (Hulu – <i>Tracy Does Conan</i>)	
<u>Class 15</u> Thursday 10/31/19	Women in TV	<i>I Love Lucy</i> (Lucy Does a TV Commercial) <i>The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel</i> (Pilot)		
<u>Class 16</u> Tuesday 11/5/19	Diversity/Culture on TV	<i>Roots</i> (Part I)	<i>Master of None</i> (Netflix – <i>Religion</i>) <i>Atlanta</i> (Hulu - <i>FUBU</i>)	Paper #1 Due to D2L by 11 PM D2L <i>Roots</i> Questionnaire
<u>Class 17</u> Thursday 11/7/19	Diversity/Culture on TV Representation		Book: Chapter 8 (Representing Identity)	Quiz Opens 12 PM – D2L
<u>Class 18</u> Tuesday 11/12/19	Science Fiction, Anthology Series		<i>Black Mirror</i> (Netflix – <i>Hang the DJ</i>)	
<u>Class 19</u> Thursday 11/14/19	Science Fiction, Anthology Series	<i>Alfred Hitchcock Presents</i> <i>Twilight Zone</i>	Book: Chapter 9 (Viewing Television) and Conclusion (American Television in a Global Context)	Quiz Closes 10 AM – D2L

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<u>Class 20</u> Tuesday 11/19/19	Future of Television Working in Television Working on Final Presentations			
<u>Class 21</u> Thursday 11/21/19	Pitch Presentation	Must be present 8:30 AM-10:45 AM		Pitch Deliverables Due to D2L by 8 AM
12:00 PM 11/23/19				Paper #2 to D2L Extra Credit to D2L