

FTS 9: History of Television (91966)

Fall 2006

MWF 11:15-12:05pm PERKIN 200;

W 330-6:00pm LAFAYE L300

Prof. Hilary Neroni

Office Hours (Old Mill 311): Wed and Fri 9:30-11am

Phone: 656-1356

Course Description: This course is an exploration of the economic, technological, aesthetic, and ideological characteristics of the television medium. We will study the historical development of television as well as analyze key works. The course will also provide an introduction to television theory and basic analytical skills.

Grade Distribution:

Quizzes: 25%

Midterm Exam: 25%

Final Exam: 25%

Response Papers,

Flow assign,

Screening notes: 25%

Assignments:

Quizzes: Random quizzes will be given throughout the semester. These quizzes will be on the readings and screening assignments from the week within which they are given. Missed quizzes CANNOT be made up. I will drop the lowest two quiz grades at the end of the semester.

Exams: The Midterm Exam will cover the first half of the course and the Final Exam will cover the second half of the course. Both exams will consist of short answer questions as well as essay questions. A review sheet will be distributed a week in advance of the exam.

Response Paper, Flow assign, Screening notes: There will be two response papers and one "flow" assignment, which will be short 2-4 page typewritten responses for which you will receive a detailed explanation of before it is due. Screening notes will be collected randomly throughout the semester. Assignments turned in late will be lowered one grading step for each day that they are late.

Tentative Schedule:

Week One: Intro

Aug 28 Intro

Aug 30 Raymond Williams "Technology and the society" (handout)

Screening: Early Television

Sept 1 Horace Newcomb and Paul Hirsch "Television as a cultural forum" (handout)

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Week Two: Origins of Television

Sept 4: NO CLASS/LABOR DAY

Sept 6 Todd Gitlin “Prime Time Ideology” (handout)
Screening: Early Television

Sept 8 Eileen Meehan “Conceptualizing Culture as Commodity” (handout)

Week Three: Flow

Sept 11 Raymond Williams “Programming: distribution and flow” (online reserve)

Sept 13 Thornham’s *Television Drama* (1-16)
Screening: Cross section examples

Sept 15 Thornham’s *Television Drama* (16-28)

Week Four: Mise-en-Scene

Sept 18 ***Flow Assignment Due**

Sept 20 Michael K. Saenz “Television Viewing” (online reserve)
Screening: *Lost in Space*

Sept 22 Lynn Spigel “From Domestic Space to Outer Space” (online reserve)

Week Five: Mise-en-Scene and Genre

Sept 25 Thornham’s *Television Drama* (29-44)

Sept 27 Thornham’s *Television Drama* (45-61)
Screening: *Star Trek* DVD 792

Sept 29 Thornham’s *Television Drama* (61-73); Jenkins “Star Trek Rerun, Reread, Rewritten” (online reserve)

Week Six: Mise-en-Scene and Genre

Oct 2 Horace Newcomb “Reflections on TV” (online reserve)

Oct 4 Jason Mittell “A Cultural Approach to Television Genre Theory” (online reserve)
Screening: *Battlestar Gallactica*

Oct 6 Edrie Sobstyl “We Who Are Borg, Are We Borg?” (online reserve)

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Week Seven: Continuity Editing

Oct 9 ***First Response Paper Due**

Oct 11 Darnell Hunt “Making Sense of Blackness on Television” (online reserve)
Screening: *Amos and Andy* and *Good Times*

Oct 13 Thornham’s *Television Drama* (74-84)

Week Eight: Continuity Editing and Representations of Race

Oct 16 Thornham’s *Television Drama* (84-92)

Oct 18 Herman Gray “The Politics of Representation in Network Television” (online reserve)
Screening: *Cosby Show*

Oct 20 TBA

Week Nine: Continuity Editing and Representations of Race

Oct 23 ***Midterm Exam**

Oct 25 Thornham’s *Television Drama* (92-110)
Screening: *ER*

Oct 27 Jane Shattuc “The Oprahification of America” (online reserve)

Week Ten: Montage

Oct 30 Montage lecture

Nov 1 Thornham’s *Television Drama* (111-116)
Screening: *MTV Video*

Nov 3 Thornham’s *Television Drama* (116-129)

Week Eleven: Montage and contemporary television

Nov 6 Thornham’s *Television Drama* (129-139)

Nov 8 Thornham’s *Television Drama* (139-149)
Screening: *Miami Vice*

Nov 10 Lynne Joyrich “All that Television Allows” (online reserve)

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Week Twelve: Montage and contemporary television

Nov 13 Thornham's *Television Drama* (150-153)

Nov 15 Thornham's *Television Drama* (153-164)
Screening: 24

Nov 17 Thornham's *Television Drama* (164-181)

Week Thirteen: Thanksgiving Recess

Nov 20- 24

Week Fourteen: Advertising

Nov 27 Robert Goldman "Introduction" (online reserve)

Nov 29 ***Second Response Paper due**
Screening: TV ads

Dec 1 Robert Goldman "Subjectivity in a Bottle" (online reserve)

Week Fifteen: Review

Dec 4 Robert Goldman "Levi's 501s and the 'Knowing Wink'" (online reserve)

Dec 6 Review

Final Exam: 03:30 PM - 06:30 PM, Tuesday Dec, 12 2006; PERKIN 200