



Sociology 215: TV, Culture and Society
Bellevue College Fall Quarter 2014
MW 12:30pm-2:20pm, Room L-220
Course website accessible via CANVAS

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Office Hours: MW 2:30-3:30; TTH 1p-2:30p

Course Catalog Description

How do we watch TV in the 21st century? Do we need a TV to watch TV? Study how television affects knowledge building, ways of thinking, and core elements of our social lives. Themes include television culture, how to understand news media, and the social history of television.

Course Content

Sociologists study a broad range of topics--some of which includes provocative content and adult themes. While every attempt will be made to keep things PG-13, please know that there will be times where R-rated content (language, images, etc.) is necessary to examine course topics within an academic context. Students will not be penalized for excusing themselves from content they find objectionable or difficult to watch, see, discuss or listen to. That being said, students who excuse themselves are responsible for any course material they miss as a result of choosing not to participate. If you have any questions or concerns about course content or classroom climate, feel free to speak with me about it at any time. I am not punitive, I am here to support you. Come talk to me during office hours or email me.

General Rules and Expectations

- Come to class. Every day. Be on time. Be present (e.g. awake).
- Complete the readings no later than the start of the week assigned.
- Be prepared to contribute to the in-class conversations.
- Take notes on the readings, videos, and songs.
- Proper use of laptops required. No Facebook, Twitter or Surfing
- Consistently demonstrate respect and proper classroom behavior. Disrespectful behavior will result in you being asked to leave.
- Critical thinking is expected. Informed opinion is the standard we seek.
- Questions are welcome and encouraged. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, student will be able to:

- Discuss the area of Television Studies in general from a sociological and cultural Studies perspective
- Explain and apply some of the basic tools of “reading television”
- Describe the global history of Television
- Critically analyze contemporary changes to the act of watching television, including the role of cable television, mobile phones, and the internet
- Illustrate a critical understanding of the field of Television Studies, its history and its future.
- Analyze the impact of Television on our private and public lives from a cultural sociological approach.

Required Textbooks:

1. Reality Bites Back: The Troubling Truth about Guilty Pleasure TV. Jennifer L. Pozner.
2. Mix it Up: Popular Culture, Mass Media, and Society. David Grazian.

Students are expected to have completed assigned readings by the start of the week listed below (see Course Schedule).

Course Schedule:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic(s)</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Week 1/2	Welcome and Overview The Sociological Imagination Culture and Socialization	Syllabus
Week 2/3	What is Popular Culture? Theoretical Perspectives Media Literacy I: TV News	Grazian, Chapters 1-4
Week 4/5	Creating Popular Culture "Reality" TV... Creating Meaning Creating Consumption <i>"The Hunger Games"</i>	Grazian, Chapters 5-6 Pozner, Intro; Chapter 1 Grazian, Chapters 8-9
Week 6/7	Reality Bites: Gender <i>"Killing Us Softly"</i>	Pozner Chapters 2-3, 7-9
Week 8	Reality Bites: Social Class <i>"Class Dismissed"</i> <i>"People Like Us"</i>	Grazian, Chapter 7 Pozner, Chapter 4
Week 9	Reality Bites: Race <i>"South Park"</i> <i>"The Boondocks"</i>	Pozner, Chapters 5-6
*****Thanksgiving Holiday: 11/27-11/28*****		
Week 10	Media Literacy II & Social Change	Grazian, Chapter 10 Pozner, Chapters 10-11

Course Requirements:

- **CANVAS Discussion Boards. 100pts**

Students are required to upload a summary of weekly readings.
Due dates and points will vary week to week.

- **CANVAS Online Quizzes. 100pts**

We will be watching several documentaries and television shows in class.
After select viewings, students are required to answer relevant questions.
Due dates and points will vary.

- **Online (Take Home) Midterm: "The Hunger Games". 100pts**

After screening the film in class, several questions will be posted online
for students to answer. Narrative/essay format. ~ 6 pages typewritten.
Due: Oct. 27th.

- **Sociology on Television. 100pts**

Students are required to watch several hours of either TV News or a Reality TV show
before presenting their findings with regards to the sociological issues and concepts
illustrated on the news or in said show. Various presentation formats are allowed.
Due: Nov. 26th

- **In Class Final (based on course readings). 100pts.**

Cumulative final exam. Study Guide will be provided.
FINAL EXAM DATE: Wednesday 12/10 11:30a-1:30p

Grading:

There are 500 points available in this class. Here is the grading scale:

475+pts = (4.0) A	360+pts = (2.3) C+	>280pts= (0.0) Fail
450+pts = (3.7) A-	345+pts = (2.0) C	
425+pts = (3.3) B+	325+pts = (1.7) C-	
400+pts = (3.0) B	300+pts = (1.3) D+	
375+pts = (2.7) B-	280+pts = (1.0) D	

Bellevue College Email:

All students registered for classes at Bellevue College are entitled to a network and e-mail account. Your student network account can be used to access your student e-mail, log in to computers in labs and classrooms, connect to the BC wireless network and log in to MyBC.

BC offers a wide variety of computer and learning labs to enhance learning and student success. Find current campus locations for all student labs by visiting the Computing Services website.

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

*If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

Withdrawal From Class

If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of “HW” (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Centre, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.