



**Sociology 215: TV, Culture and Society  
Bellevue College Fall Quarter 2012**

Instructor: **Eric C. Davis** Phone: 425-564-5721  
Email: [eric.davis@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:eric.davis@bellevuecollege.edu) Office: A100 Tower  
Office Hours: MW11:30-12:20pm or by appointment.

**Class meeting times: MW 12:30pm-2:40pm, Room L-126**

Course website accessible via myBC

### **Course Catalog Description**

*Study how television affects various forms of knowledge, ways of thinking, and core elements of our social lives. Themes include television culture, dominant and subversive TV, technological voyeurism, how to watch the news, 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.

*NOTE: When emailing, please put SOC 215--[your name] in the subject line so that I can easily identify you and quickly respond.*

### Classroom Theme/Pedagogical Approach

Video selections and music will be prominently featured in this class and will be used to illustrate course topics and themes. All multimedia selections are chosen for their ability to make you think and therefore, inspire engaging classroom conversations. No one will be put on the spot, but please be prepared to participate in class discussions. Critical thinking is the goal.

This course is paperless and uses many different online, internet based tools to support classroom management and enhance student learning. Students in this section of SOC 215 will need to have stable and consistent internet access along with a working Bellevue College email account (^see notes below for access information).

Further, students in this class will be accessing a few different websites:

Grades: [www.jupitergrades.com](http://www.jupitergrades.com)

Quizzes: [www.junoed.com](http://www.junoed.com)

Papers: [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)

### 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.
- **DO NOT use your cell phone/text messaging device in the classroom.**
- 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, the fully engaged, actively participating student will be able to:*

1. Demonstrate a general knowledge and comprehension of the area of Television Studies through the fields of Sociology and Cultural Studies.
2. Demonstrate their comprehension and utilization of some of the basic tools of “reading television”.
3. Demonstrate a general understanding of the history of Television.
4. Show their critical understanding of the field of Television Studies,
5. its history and its future, including the understanding of a Cultural Sociological approach to inquiries regarding the impact of Television on our private and public lives.

**Readings:**

*Required Textbook: Reality Bites Back: The Troubling Truth about Guilty Pleasure TV. Jennifer L. Pozner.*

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

- Bring reading notes and/or textbooks to each and every class meeting.
- Be prepared to relate textbook topics to songs, video presentations, etc.
- Be prepared to ask relevant questions related to that week’s topic.

**Course Schedule:**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic(s)</b>	<b>Readings/Scheduled Media</b>
<b>Week 1/2</b>	Welcome and Overview The Sociological Imagination Sociological Perspectives TV, Culture and Society Elements of Culture	Syllabus  Pozner, Chapter 1
<b>Week 3/4</b>	Socialization Gender Role Socialization	Pozner, Chapters 2, 3 & 6 <i>"Killing Us Softly"</i>
<b>Week 5</b>	Gender Stratification Heteronormativity	Pozner, Chapters 7, 8 & 9 <i>Off the Straight and Narrow</i>
<b>Week 6</b>	Social Class Stratification Mocking the Poor	Pozner, Chapter 4 <i>"Class Dismissed"</i> <i>"People Like Us"</i>
<b>Week 7</b>	Racial Stratification	Pozner, Chapter 5 <i>"Return of the King" (Boondocks)</i> <i>"With Apologies..." (South Park)</i>
<b>Week 8/9</b>	TV News. Politics War. Violence. Deviance on TV; Reality revisited Sports television.	<i>"News War"</i> <i>"The Hunger Games"</i> <i>"June 17, 1994"</i>
<b>Week 10</b>	Media Literacy & Social Change	Pozner, Chapter 11

**Course Requirements:**

- Attendance. 80 points (4pts per class session)  
On time arrival expected. Roll taken daily.
- Participation. 70 points.  
Active listening. Focused attention. Small and large group work.
- SOC on TV Assignment. 150 points  
--Topic Statement DUE 10/8  
--Research Notes DUE 11/19  
--Final Paper DUE 12/3  
All assignments are to be submitted via [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)
- Television and Documentary Film Viewing & Analysis. 200 points.  
A variety of television shows and related documentary films are featured in our class. Using *Juno* and in-class handouts, students are required to answer a series of questions after viewings. The goal is connecting sociology concepts and terms from the textbook with examples from the shows/films. Points per assignment vary.  
Website: [www.junoed.com](http://www.junoed.com)

**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	

**NOTE:** Extra credit points are an option but are only available to students who complete all regular assignments and examinations on time. Extra credit points cannot replace late work, missed exams or missing assignments.

**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.

^To create your account, go to: <https://bellevuecollege.edu/sam>.

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."

**Final Examination Schedule**

There is no Final Exam scheduled for SOC 215

**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.