

Sociology 215: TV Culture & Society Bellevue College Fall Term 2010

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Office Hrs: M-TH 11:30-12:20

Office: D100A

Class meeting times:

MW 12:30-2:40, Room C-164

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.

Classroom Theme/Pedagogical Approach:

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. SOC 215 will feature readings, music, comedy clips, films and discussions that include adult themes and strong language. 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.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of SOC 215, the successful student will be able to:

- Demonstrate a general knowledge and comprehension of the area of Television Studies through the fields of Sociology and Cultural Studies.
- Demonstrate their comprehension and utilization of some of the basic tools of “reading television”.
- Demonstrate a general understanding of the history of Television.
- Show their critical understanding of the field of Television Studies, 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.

General Rules and Expectations:

- Come to class. Every day. Be on time. Be present.
- Complete the readings no later than the *start* of the week assigned.
- Properly manage your laptop, netbook, cell phone and/or PDA.
- TEXTING in class... [exhale]... Let's talk...
- 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.

Required Textbooks:

“From Daytime to Primetime: The History of American Television Programs.” James Roman. Greenwood Press, 2005.

Students are expected to have completed assigned readings by the start of the week listed.

Course Schedule

Week	Topics/Themes	Readings/Assignments
Week 1	The Birth of Television: Radio set the tone TV and American Culture The Art of Storytelling TV: Reflection or Influence?	Syllabus Roman, p. 1-22
Week 2	The Early Years: Representing America TV Advertising: Commercials and Commercialism Variety Shows	Roman, p. 23-60
Week 3	Representing Identity: Race, Class and Gender	Roman, p. 61-92
Week 4	The Sitcom Pushing the limits through Satire	Roman, p. 93-134 =>Attendance, 40pts
Week 5	TV Drama and Miniseries; The legacy of "Roots" Emmy Awards: Cable Television: HBO, AMC, etc. Music Television: MTV, BET	Roman, p.149-170; 261-270 =>Midterm Exam Due 10/18
Week 6	Reality TV: The Real World, Survivor Jon and Kate plus 8; The Bachelor Talk TV: Oprah. The Tonight Show and...	Roman, p. 171-192
Week 7	Kids, Cartoons, Puppets and Muppets Sesame Street, Nick, Jr. and Cartoon Network What Happened to Saturday Morning Cartoons? TV and the Comics The Simpsons, South Park and Boondocks	Roman, p. 213-228 =>Attendance, 30pts Roman, p. 135-148
Week 8:	Television News CNN, MSNBC, FOX, and The Daily Show Politics, Political Agendas and Politically Incorrect	Roman, p. 239-260 =>Project Due 11/15
Week 9:	Sports and Television ESPN, Olympics, The Superbowl, Final Four, etc.	Roman, p. 271-300
Week 10:	Technology, Trends and Change: HDTV and Viewer choice: iTunes, AppleTV, Netflix and... Exporting American TV and Cultural Values	Roman, p. 301-310 =>Attendance, 30pts =>Final Exam Due <u>by</u> 12/8

Course Requirements:

- Attendance and Participation **100 points.**

Be in class. On time. Complete readings in a timely manner.
Listen actively. Join in discussions. Engage in activities. Take notes.
Demonstrate critical thinking. Ask questions. Be an active learner.

- Take Home Exams **200 points.** *100pts per exam.*

In lieu of in class exams, there will be two (2) opportunities for students to analyze issues raised in the textbook and corresponding classroom lectures. The take home midterm exam will pose two (2) questions that will require a 2-3 page typewritten response for EACH question. The take home final exam will also feature two (2) questions that require 2-3 page responses PER question. Exams will be released no later than a week before their due date. **Due dates: Oct. 18th and December 8th.**

- Television, Society and Culture Project **100 points.**

Students are required to research and design a PowerPoint, HTML, Flash, or Keynote presentation that expands on a topic that is directly related to the themes noted above in the course schedule. A detailed handout outlining expectations will be provided.

Projects are due on Monday, November 15th.

Grading:

There are 400 points available in this class.

380+pts = (4.0) A	290+pts = (2.3) C+
360+pts = (3.7) A-	275+pts = (2.0) C
340+pts = (3.3) B+	260+pts = (1.7) C-
325+pts = (3.0) B	245+pts = (1.3) D+
310+pts = (2.7) B-	230+pts = (1.0) D
	>230pts= (0.0) Fail

Online Grade Book:

www.snapgrades.net

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 in-class Final Exam scheduled for Sociology 215 but students have until 1:20pm on Wednesday, December 8th to submit their take home final exam.
The last in-class meeting day is 12/1/10.

Withdrawal from Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). 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.

Classroom Meetings Dates

We will not be meeting in-class on the following dates:

October 27th (College Issues Day) and November 24th (Thanksgiving)

NOTES: