

ENG/FILMSTD 291

Introduction to Television Studies

Fall 2021

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Fulfills major requirements for English major (Plan H and Plan O) as well as Film Studies.

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the central issues and concerns in the field of television studies. While this is a field that recognizes and seeks to understand the pleasures of television in our everyday lives, it also takes a critical perspective on television, questioning why and how the medium functions as it does. Central to this course is the idea that television matters in our international, national, and local societies and in our individual, everyday lives. Although most of our readings and examples will be drawn from US television, we will also take into account the global circulation of television in the 21st century. We will explore three major aspects of television in this course: the television industry, television texts, and television audiences.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, you will:

- 1) Understand the parameters of the field of television studies
- 2) Understand the key issues surrounding the television industry, television texts, and television audiences
- 3) Improve your textual analysis skills, both oral and written
- 4) Improve your ability to read and understand television and media studies scholarship
- 5) Develop a more critical, sophisticated perspective on your own relationship to television

Required Readings:

Ethan Thompson and Jason Mittell, editors. *How to Watch Television*, 2nd Edition (New York: New York University Press, 2020), ISBN: 978-1479898817, \$30.00

Additional readings will be made available on Canvas