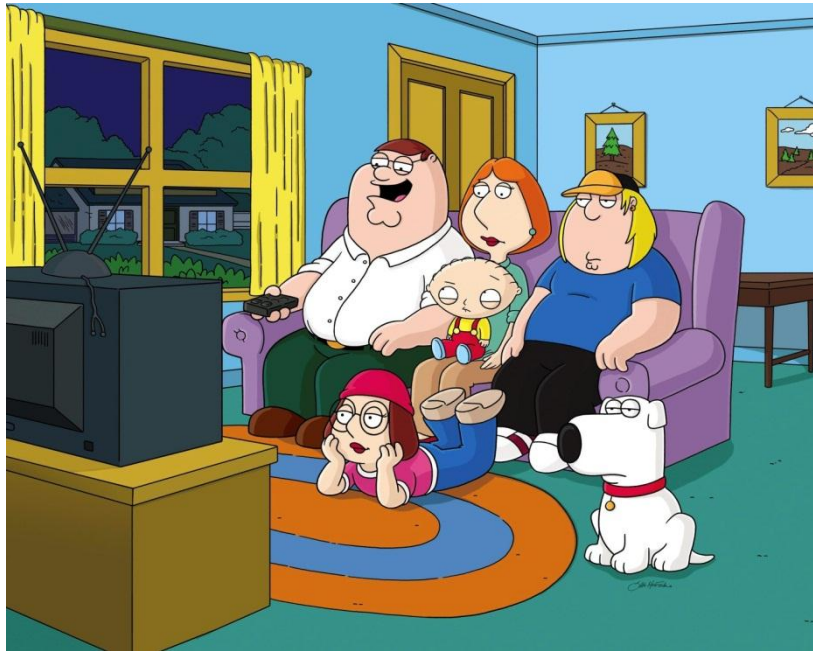


MDIA 302 Television Narrative

Trimester 2 2012

16 July to 17 November 2012

20 Points



“Whereas our ancestors used to listen to tall-tale spinners, read penny dreadfuls, tune in to radio dramas, or rush to the local bijou each Saturday, now we primarily satisfy our ever-constant yearning for stories by gathering around the flickering box in the living room. Television is the principal storyteller in contemporary... society.”

Sarah Kozloff

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: 16 July to 19 October 2012

Mid-trimester break: 27 August to 9 September 2012

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course Coordinator	Email	Phone	Room	Office Hours
Trisha Dunleavy	trisha.dunleavy@vuw.ac.nz	04 463 6843	203, 81 Fairlie Terrace	Tues 1-2pm

Tutor

Jono McLeod jono.mcleod@vuw.ac.nz 04 463 7038 301, 83 Fairlie Terrace TBC

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures Mondays 3.10 to 5.00pm 77 Fairlie Terrace Room 306

Tutorials Tutorials begin in Week 2.

Please register for tutorials via the MDIA 302 site on Blackboard: go to “Tutorials” and then follow the instructions under the “SCubed - Tutorial Enrolment Instructions” link. Please read the instructions carefully. Tutorial rooms will be listed on S-Cubed and Blackboard.

TEACHING LEARNING SUMMARY

Students should assume that the staff involved in this course will put maximum effort into teaching at a high level. To take full advantage of this commitment by staff, students are encouraged to actively engage with the material offered in MDIA 302. In addition to the minimum requirements for attending classes and completing assignments, an active engagement means reading the required academic items every week; viewing programme examples outside of classes; searching for more information about topics of special interest; participating in class discussions; and devoting a genuine intellectual energy to assessment tasks.

- Lectures are characterised by a teacher-led approach, supported by powerpoint notes and indicative DVD clips. Student Notes provide essential support for each lecture and students are strongly advised to read as many as possible of the items related to the topic before each week’s lecture. One or two items will be identified as priority and it is important to have completed your reading of these before the tutorial on each topic. The attendance threshold that applies to MDIA 302 lectures and tutorials recognises that in this subject, students who miss a proportion of classes perform less well and require more individual assistance from staff than those who do attend a clear majority of classes.
- The tutorial schedule is designed so that tutorials follow the lecture topics by one week. This one-week time-lag gains additional importance once tutorial seminars begin (from Tuesday, August 14, Week 5). Tutorials are highly interactive and are designed to incorporate considerable input from tutorial members. Students need to have prepared for tutorial discussions by completing the weekly readings before class. NB. Because several readings per topic have been included in the reader, a list of priority readings (1-2) per topic will be given to you (and also posted on Blackboard) at the first lecture.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

There are two systems of course support outside of actual classes. Please use **S-Cubed** to sign up for tutorials. All other online course documentation (regarding lectures, assignments, additional reading suggestions, and any information about required changes) will be found on **Blackboard**.

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

COURSE PRESCRIPTION

This course examines narrative strategies and tendencies in contemporary primetime television programming, both fictional and factual. Applying screen narrative theory and using textual analysis, we will examine what kinds of stories TV tells us and the narrative strategies it uses. Narrative forms to be studied include: series and serial drama, continuing soap opera, scripted (series) comedy, 'reality' competition game-doc and 'reality' docusoap.

COURSE CONTENT

Lecture topics for this course are organised into three interrelated sections. These are:

- 1) narrative contexts, structures and theory;
- 2) narrative modes; and
- 3) case studies in narrative form, genre and approach.

Please see the list of lectures (last page of this outline) for more detail about the nature and order of specific lecture topics.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Understand key theoretical concepts and how different approaches to TV narrative are indicative of TV form;
2. Be familiar with current academic research into the leading fictional and factual television genres;
3. Have the ability to analyse and evaluate narrative structures across factual as well as fictional TV programmes;
4. Understand some of the cultural appeals ('local', transnational, and 'universal') with which TV narratives are imbued; and
5. Draw linkages between the narrative forms that pervade primetime TV and the mix of cultural and institutional influences that inform and shape its programmes.

NB. Assessment items for this course are cumulatively designed to test student learning and understandings of *all* of the above aims and objectives. This coverage is ensured by the prohibition of any duplication of topics or material between assignment questions.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 20 point course is 200 hours spread evenly over the 12 week trimester and breaks, or 13 hours per teaching week. This course is designed on the assumption that students will be able to commit this volume of time in attending lectures and tutorials and completing the required reading, viewing and independent research and writing.

READINGS

Essential Text: *MDIA 302 Student Notes 2012*

This comprehensive reader contains both the *required readings* to support lectures and tutorials which form a solid conceptual or theoretical basis for assignment work and additional readings for each topic. In preparing assignments, students should begin by consulting all items in the Student Notes (all of which have been carefully selected on the basis of their suitability to the foci and aims of this course) the priority readings) before moving on to the list of *further readings* which will be included in the powerpoint notes for each lecture topic and can be found either on library shelves or in library databases.

Recommended Reading:

The books below are available in the library. Whilst most of them will be consulted by MDIA 302 students at some point during the course, it is not expected that you will purchase these texts.

- Glen Creeber (2005) *Serial Television: Big Drama on the Small Screen*, British Film Institute: London
- Trisha Dunleavy (2009) *Television Drama: Form, Agency, Innovation*, Palgrave Macmillan: Basingstoke
- Gary R. Edgerton and Brian G Rose eds. (2005) *Thinking Outside the Box: A Contemporary Television Genre Reader*, The University Press of Kentucky: Kentucky
- Jonathan Gray (2006) *Watching With The Simpsons: Television, Parody and Intertextuality*, Routledge: New York and London
- Annette Hill, *Restyling Factual TV: Audiences and News, Documentary and Reality Genres*, Routledge: London and New York
- Annette Hill (2005) *Reality TV: Audiences and Popular Factual Television*, Routledge: London and New York
- Su Holmes and Deborah Jermyn ed. (2004) *Understanding Reality Television* Routledge: London and New York
- Misha Kavka (2008) *Reality Television Affect and Intimacy: Reality Matters*, Palgrave MacMillan: Basingstoke

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- Richard Kilborn and John Izod (1997) *An Introduction to Television Documentary: Confronting Reality*, Manchester University Press: Manchester and New York
- Marc Leverette, Brian L. Ott, Cara Louise Buckley eds. (2008) *It's Not TV: Watching HBO in the Post-Television Era*, New York and London: Routledge
- Jason Mittell (2004) *Genre and Television: From Cop Shows to Cartoons in American Culture*, Routledge: London and New York
- Carol A. Stabile and Mark Harrison eds. (2003) *Prime Time Animation: Television Animation and American Culture*, London and New York: Routledge

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 9–27 July 2012, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of Vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from Vicbooks on Level 4 of the Student Union Building. You can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to you or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. You will be contacted when they are available. Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

This course is internally assessed. There are three items, all of which must be attempted and submitted in order to qualify for course completion and a pass grade.

- **First Essay – 2600 words – 35%**

Due: Friday 24 August, 5pm

- **Tutorial presentation – 25%**

These presentations occur in your regular tutorial class, from Week 5 to Week 12. Each student's presentation will be followed (which must be received within 7 days of your presentation date) by the submission of a written summary. Marks will be divided equally between the *presentation* and the *summary* to determine the grade for this piece of assessment.

- **Final Essay – 3000 words – 40%**

Due: Friday 19 October, 5pm

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office, 83 Fairlie Terrace. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extension requests must be put to the Course Coordinator, Dr Trisha Dunleavy, before the assignment due date (with email being the preferred mode). Extensions will be granted only in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Tutors cannot grant extensions.

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 per cent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Meeting the attendance threshold outlined below is a mandatory requirement in MDIA 302. Hence, to gain a pass in MDIA 302 you must:

- Attend a minimum of 7 two-hour lectures
- Attend a minimum of 7 tutorials
- Submit all three pieces of written work specified for this course, by the set deadline dates or by those for which an extension has been arranged.

NB. In this course records of attendance are kept for each lecture as well as for each tutorial. At the lecture you must place **your full signature** next to your name on one of the 9 sets of student names that are handed around at each lecture. Rolls will be taken **by your tutor** at the beginning of each tutorial.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

A class representative will be elected at the first lecture, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i. e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer. No MDIA 302 assignment should be handwritten.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic,

intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. (See below for two specific forms of this). Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. In MDIA 302 the definition of 'Someone else's work' includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source (e.g. a Student Notes item)
- The work of other students or staff (e.g. from Lecture Powerpoint Slides or student essays)
- Information from the internet (e.g. from online articles or statistical information about TV productions)
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY REQUIREMENTS AND RELATED CHECKING OF WORK FOR MDIA 302

All of the assertions in the above section also apply to students in MDIA 302. The current section adds some additional details that are important to consider in light of the requirements for referencing of your essays and presentations and the approach to the checking of academic integrity in any work completed for MDIA 302. In essays and presentations for MDIA 302, two kinds of mistakes in referencing can (if they fit the specifications below) reduce the grade awarded to your essay. Because the first type of error outlined below is also a form of plagiarism, a penalty may be incurred each time this error occurs in your work:

- When a short phrase, part sentence, or sentence, that is recognisable as the work of another author, appears in your essay work without speech marks around it; and
- When a fact, statistic, or piece of data that you did not devise or author yourself appears in your essay without any reference to the original source and (where relevant) to its author.

The safest approach to composing your essays and presentations in MDIA 302 is to fully reference **any idea that is not entirely your own**. Full referencing requires:

1) that you place the quoted words within speech marks; and 2) that you name the original author, publication year, and page number/s. MDIA 302 does not use Turnitin because the preferred alternative is to visually check each piece of work for plagiarism, including for the two forms detailed on the previous page. This checking occurs at two points: 1) during marking; and 2) during the moderation process. If referencing errors and unacknowledged ideas or 'borrowings' are found in your work you will face, at the very least, a grade penalty. In more serious cases you are likely to fail the assignment (which may impact your ability to pass the course) and be required to attend a disciplinary meeting.

WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study.

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
MEDIA STUDIES PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE MDIA 302

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1 16 July Contexts and Approaches (No tutorial)

Week 2 23 July Narrative Theory

Week 3 30 July Series and Serial Form

Week 4 6 August Realism

Week 5 13 August Intertextuality

Week 6 20 August Melodrama

Mid Trimester Break: Monday 27 August to Sunday 9 September 2012

Week 7 10 September Narratives of Crime

Week 8 17 September Narrating Humour: Continuity and Change in Scripted 'Sitcom'

Week 9 24 September Narrative Complexity in Series and Serial Drama

Week 10 1 October TV Narrative and Format Adaptation

Week 11 8 October Case Studies in Generic Mixing: Docusoap and Comedy Verité

Week 12 15 October Narratives of Competition: the 'Reality' Game-Doc

- **First Essay – 2600 words – 35%**
Due: Friday 24 August, 5pm
- **Final Essay – 3000 words – 40%**
Due: Friday 19 October, 5pm
- **Tutorial Presentations**
Begin in Week 5, on Tuesday 13 August and run every tutorial thereafter