Required Materials

*Defining Visions: Television and the American Experience*  
(by Mary Ann Watson)

Utilized for:
- Renting/viewing television shows
- Other materials as assigned in class and on Canvas

INSTRUCTOR:
Melissa A. Johnson  
Office: Black Hall 225-24  
Office Hours: MTuW 9:00 - 10:00 am; by appointment; via e-mail  
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Historical survey of television as an entertainment, information and art medium. Emphasis on understanding the cultural, social, political, technological and economic conditions of production; the examination of television as text itself; and TV's impact on audiences.
COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

OBJECTIVES:
• Develop an awareness of key television shows in television history
• Understand and analyze key historical movements in television history
• Produce texts that demonstrate visual literacy
• Determine and assess the cultural arcs of television history
• Participate in a community interested in discussing/analyzing television beyond the surface level of narrative and character.
• Relate television shows to their historical and cultural contexts
• Determine and assess key aspects of television aesthetics as reflected in individual shows
• Develop a deeper appreciation for television as an art form

CITIZENSHIP:

CONDUCT: Students whose conduct is disruptive or disorderly (e.g., talking out of turn, using cell phones, texting, or using other electronic devices in class*) will be reprimanded. In some cases, a student may be asked to leave class and the incident may be reported to Student Affairs. (See CWU’s policy in Appendix B of the catalog.)

[*Students are encouraged to express differing views and to challenge one another, but students that attack individual perspectives, practices, or ideas in a disrespectful way may be removed from class and no credit will be awarded.]

[*Use of electronic devices during class is prohibited and may be counted as an absence. Computers (laptops, netbooks, etc.) are not permitted for in-class use except as arranged by Disability Support Services (see “ADA Statement”).]
MORE COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
There are many reasons for missing any particular session. This class does not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. As such, three absences are not counted against your Participation & Attendance score (although you may lose points for activities, participation, or assignments from a missed day). For each absence beyond the third, a student loses 4 points. It is possible to have a negative Participation score. If you do miss class, check your syllabus, visit Canvas, and talk with a classmate about that day’s lesson. You will be held responsible for completing any work assigned while you are absent. Some assignments may not be made up (i.e. in class activities).

EVEN MORE COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

DAILY PARTICIPATION:
Every student is expected to come to class prepared for instruction and ready to engage fellow students, the instructor, and the material. If you are not prepared for class, if you have been consistently late for class, or if you are disruptive (such as in the use of electronic devices) you will be counted absent.

► EXCEPTIONS: In very rare circumstances, an absence may not count toward your three permitted absences. An appeal must be made at least 48 hours prior to the absence. I will consider CWU-related activities (i.e. athletics), but only if notified in advance. If you are aware of an upcoming absence, notify your instructor. Quizzes must be re-scheduled at least 24 hours before the original quiz date. No other late work will be accepted, no matter the reason for an absence.

► TARDIES: Attendance is taken at the beginning of each session. If you are not present when roll is completed, but arrive within the first ten minutes of class, you are counted “tardy.” Every set of three tardies counts as one absence. If you arrive to class more than ten minutes late, you are counted absent.

WRITING POLICY:
This course is a WRITING course and therefore relies on the University’s Writing Program policy. All work will be evaluated based on the Writing Program expectations (available upon request).
EVEN MORE COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

E-MAIL POLICY:

- SENDING: E-mails should be sent via Canvas (for best results) and should come through your Outlook account. E-mails should include the course, student name, and a subject. E-mails sent regarding assignments should arrive at least 48 hours before the deadline (2 pm on the due date) to allow for a reasonable response.

- RESPONSE: E-mails sent during our course week (M-Th) should expect a response within 24 hours. E-mails sent on the weekend (F-Sun) should expect a response within 24 hours of the start of a new week. Responses will not be sent after 6 pm on any given night. Due dates aren’t negotiable, but materials are available at least one week prior to each deadline. You should plan your time accordingly to allow for question and a reasonable response time from your instructor.

MODULE 4:
OCT 12 - OCT 15
[Reading] *Defining Visions* ch. 3
[Viewing] Available on Canvas
[Due: 10/15] Quiz 3 (ch. 3)
[Due: 10/15] TV Cultural Analysis (Group 1)

TOPICS: Home on the Screen: Gender and Family

MODULE 5:
OCT 19 - OCT 22
[Reading] *Defining Visions* ch. 4
[Viewing] Available on Canvas
[Due: 10/22] Quiz 4 (ch. 4)

TOPICS: The Killing Tube: Violence and Crime

MODULE 6:
OCT 26 - OCT 29
[Reading] *Defining Visions* ch. 5
[Viewing] Available on Canvas
[Due: 10/29] Quiz 5 (ch. 5)

TOPICS: TV Goes All the Way: Romance and Sexuality
MODULE 7:
NOV 02 - NOV 05
[Reading] Defining Visions ch. 6
[Viewing] Available on Canvas
[Due: 11/05] Quiz 6 (ch. 6)

TOPICS: The Boxed-In
Workplace: Jobs and Professions

MODULE 8:
NOV 09 - NOV 12
[Reading] Defining Visions ch. 7
[Viewing] Available on Canvas
[Due: 11/12] Quiz 7 (ch. 7)
[Due: 11/12] TV Cultural Analysis (Group 2)

*No Class Nov 11 - Veteran's Day Observation

TOPICS: Tuning Out
Restraint: Indulgence and Advertising

TOPICS: Taking the Cue:
Television and the American Personality

NOV 16 - NOV 19
[Reading] Defining Visions ch. 8
[Viewing] Available on Canvas
[Due: 11/19] Quiz 8 (ch. 8)

EVEN MORE COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

E-MAIL POLICY:
▶ SENDING: E-mails should be sent via Canvas (for best results) and should come through your Outlook account. E-mails should include the course, student name, and a subject. E-mails sent regarding assignments should arrive at least 48 hours before the deadline (10 am on the due date) to allow for a reasonable response.

▶ RESPONSE: E-mails sent during our course week (M-Th) should expect a response within 24 hours. E-mails sent on the weekend (F-Sun) should expect a response within 24 hours of the start of a new week. Responses will not be sent after 6 pm on any given night. Due dates aren’t negotiable, but materials are available at least one week prior to each deadline. You should plan your time accordingly to allow for question and a reasonable response time from your instructor.
MORE COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION:
➤ DUE DATES/TIMES: ALL work is due by the stated due date in the syllabus. ALL work is due by 10 AM on the stated due date.

➤ LATE WORK POLICY: No work will be accepted after the stated due date and time. Any work submitted after the stated due date and time will not receive credit.

➤ EXTRA CREDIT: Extra Credit is rarely (if ever) offered. Students should not count on EC as a measured means of success in this course. Any EC opportunities that do arise will be posted on Canvas via “Announcements.” EC that may be offered will not outweigh any one assignment in point value.

CANVAS POLICY:
➤ Canvas is an integral part of our course (being the primary means of access to and completion of assignments). Students should access Canvas on a daily basis (M-Th).

➤ Canvas content is broken into modules. All due dates, links to assignment submission, course documents, and all other important information are available through the course modules on Canvas. Modules are available at least one week prior to the first due date for the week in question (note: materials may disappear after the due date and may not be available after that time).

➤ All assignments (unless otherwise noted) should be submitted on Canvas (through a number of different means) by the 10 AM deadline on the posted due dates.
EVALUATION CRITERIA:

GRADE POINTS:
- Participation: 25%
- Quizzes: 25%
- TV Cultural Analysis: 25%
- Final Presentation: 25%

TOTAL: 100% total

GRADE SCALE:
A 95-100%
A- 90-94%
B+ 87-89%
B 84-86%
B- 80-83%
C+ 77-79%
C 74-76%
C- 70-73%
D+ 67-69%
D 64-66%
D- 60-63%
F below 60%

COURSE PROTOCOL:

ONLINE PROTOCOL:

PROFILE PICTURE: As part of building the online portion of our community, students are required to post a picture of themselves during Week 1. Failure to post a picture will result in lost participation points; students will lose additional points each week thereafter that a picture is not uploaded to Canvas.

MONDAY DISCUSSION FORUMS: Each week students will post responses to discussion forum prompts (see PARTICIPATION in syllabus). All posts will be evaluated on the use of visual language, clarity, and analytical focus on prompt guidelines. Each original post should be a minimum of 150 words, but students should take as much space necessary to meet the demands of the prompt. Each peer response should be a minimum of 50 words. Any information quoted or paraphrased from the textbook should be cited at the end of each post. Research is encouraged to enhance your Monday posts.

QUIZZES: All quizzes are timed. Students will have one opportunity to complete each quiz. Quizzes average 20 questions per chapter; each question is worth 1 point. All quizzes are due by 2 pm on the scheduled due date. No exceptions will be made for quizzes completed after the 2 pm deadline.

WRITING/RESEARCH: All television show titles must be italicized. Failure to italicize titles will result in lost points under “Grammar/Mechanics” section of assignment rubrics. Likewise, failure to format assignments correctly (including discussion forum posts – see above protocol and prompts for directions – and final presentations) will also result in lost points. Some assignments will require the use of scholarly sources. Failure to use said sources could result in lost points or a zero for the assignment. Wikipedia and online dictionaries are not considered “scholarly” and should be used only for personal clarification, not as part of your analysis.
ASSIGNMENTS:

ONLINE VIEWINGS:
Students will watch a variety of television show episodes over the course of the quarter. Students are also required to view a full season of a select series. Even if you have seen one or more of the required shows it is important that you view them again within the context of this class and in relation to the textbook.

PARTICIPATION:
▶ DAILY: Students are expected to be prepared on a daily basis with questions and analyses of the terms and concepts from the readings. When not speaking, students should be attentive and courteous.
▶ MONDAY DISCUSSION FORUMS: Every week students will participate in discussions on the viewings and concepts introduced in the textbook. Discussion forums are available on the Canvas Discussion Board. Specific questions and instructions are posted with each forum. Each student is required to post an initial response to the discussion question as well as at least one response to a peer’s post. Discussion Questions are evaluated based on content, cohesion, and use of visual language. Posts will only be marked down for mechanics if they obscure the overall meaning of the post or response.
[Participation is worth 25% of your grade]

QUIZZES:
Over the course of the quarter we will cover many concepts that will help you to better understand the critical context of television history. Every week you will take an online quiz that will cover concepts the chapter content from the week. Quizzes are due every Thurs at 2 pm and are available at least one week prior to the each due date. Specific dates are posted on the syllabus.
[Quizzes are worth 25% of your grade]
EVEN MORE ASSIGNMENTS:

FINAL HISTORICAL ANALYSIS PRESENTATION:
In lieu of a final exam, students will create and deliver a professional presentation. The presentation should have the following parts as outlined below.

► RESEARCH: Students will need to research an historical period of television history, which will include scholarly research as well as viewing and analysis of television shows from the chosen era. Research should be clear, focused, and support a central argument.

► PRESENTATION: Research will be presented to the class in a professional, engaging, and visually interesting way. This will vary in format, but should include a visual element and an oral element. Presentations should be between 10-15 minutes and should include a bibliography or works-cited sheet. Additional assignment guidelines will be available on Canvas.

[Presentations are worth 25% of your grade]