COMM 5343:
Seminar in Television Studies
MW 6-945, June 4 - July 6. No class July 4.

Course Description: Seminar in critical study of television programming content, production practices, and audiences. Includes consideration of industrial, political, aesthetic, and cultural analyses of television.

Student Learning Objectives:
After taking the course, students will be able to
1. Apply a variety of methods to study and analyze television culture
2. Create original research in television studies

Evaluation:
Article Abstract & Presentation (10%). Each student will individually write an abstract, distribute it to the class, and lead discussion on an assigned reading.

Take-Home Exam 30%. A take-home exam will be given covering topics in television studies covered during the first half of the term.

Research Paper (40%) & Presentation (10%) Students will develop a substantial research paper on an element of television culture in consultation with the professor. In addition to turning in the paper, students will introduce their work in a 15-20 minute presentation to the class.

In-Class Participation (10%) Attendance is mandatory and active participation in class is vital to your experience in the course. Ten points will be deducted from your participation grade for each class missed. Missing one class is like missing a week and a half of classes during a regular term.

Grade Scale: A = 100-90, B = 89-80, C = 79-70, D = 69-60, F = 59 and under.

Course Readings:

Additional readings available via Blackboard.

COURSE SCHEDULE
Week 1:
Class 1. Monday 6/4
Introduction & Screenings
In Class: Adorno & Horkheimer, “Enlightenment as Mass Deception”; Hall, “Encoding/Decoding”

Class 2. Wednesday 6/6
Readings for Discussion: Television Studies, Gray & Lotz Introduction

Week 2:
Class 3. Monday 6/11

Class 4. Wednesday 6/13

Week 3:
Class 5. Monday 6/18

Class 6. Wednesday 6/20

Week 4:
Class 7. Monday 6/25

Class 8. Wednesday 6/27
Reading: Gray & Lotz, “Contexts”
Spigel, Make Room for TV (Introduction, Chapters 2-3); Thompson, “Parodic Sensibility”

Week 5
Class 9. Monday 7/2
Wednesday 7/4 No class

Friday 7/6 Final Examinations (Presentations & Papers Due)

*Notice to Students with Disabilities: Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible. Please have your accommodation letter from Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi Disability Services (DS) Office with you when you come see me. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Disability Services Office (located in 116 Corpus Christi Hall) at 361.825.5816.

**Academic Advising.** The College of Liberal Arts requires students meet with an academic advisor. The academic advisor will review the degree plan you have developed in consultation with your faculty advisor and graduate committee. The Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E; your academic advisor, Rachelle Stanley, can be reached at 825-3466.

***Grade Appeal Process.*** As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

Students are expected to:

1. **Silence and put away cell phones.** Texting (including the reading of texts!) is not allowed in class.
2. **Attend class regularly and on-time.** Attendance is mandatory. Do not get up and leave early.
3. **Participate in class discussions.** In addition to the enlightening lectures, our goal during each class will be to have a lively, informed discussion. You will not get an “A” if you do not regularly contribute to class discussion in a productive manner.
4. **Be responsible for any information and materials missed when absent.**
5. **Complete readings and assignments as assigned.** All assignments must be handed in on time; exceptions will be made only for extraordinary cases and official documentation is needed.
6. **Type and proofread all written work before turning it in.** Really.
7. **Seek help with writing if necessary.** The Writing Center of TAMU-CC, located in Library 216, provides free help for students at any stage in the writing process. More information is available at http://writing.tamucc.edu/wiki/WritingCenter/WritingCenter.
8. **Properly cite sources.** Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any form, and will result in an automatic zero for the assignment and further disciplinary action.
9. **Respect the privacy and opinions of fellow students.** I expect students to participate in discussion, and I expect students to respect each other’s (hopefully well-informed) opinions. Grades and course performance are considered private information. Students are not to openly to discuss their grades (good or bad) inside my classroom.
10. **Meet with the instructor during office hours.** I will not discuss individual student grades in the classroom. I will, however, be happy to discuss grades on papers, exams, course performance, etc. during office hours. I also do not allow the following topics to be openly discussed in the classroom: student opinions about other faculty, student opinions about other students, student grades in other classes.