COURSE DESCRIPTION

For decades, the television set has been an important fixture in our daily lives. Today, we increasingly watch television on the go, using computers, cell phones, DVRs, and DVDs to keep up with our favorite shows. This course provides an introduction to television studies by looking at the different factors shaping how television looks, how we encounter it, and how we understand it. We will also spend time thinking about how television influences and reflects upon society, and how society in turn influences what we see on television. We will have screenings from a variety of time periods and genres in order to give ourselves the broadest scope of understanding.

There are no prerequisites for this course, and you are not expected to have any prior knowledge of television or media studies. You are, however, expected to treat the material as a legitimate object of study. We will begin with the premise that television offers much more than "entertainment" and that, accordingly, studying it is a serious undertaking requiring rigor and diligence.