Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies 830
Topics in Media History: Television History and Television Studies
Spring 2018
Wednesday, 9AM – 11:40AM, BOL 581

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Course Description
This course aims to introduce students to the field of television studies, highlighting some of its chief concerns and areas of inquiry. At the same time, it offers an overview of television historiography, not only due to the historical focus of much television scholarship, but also as a means of understanding the commitment to contextualization in the field of television studies. The television history we will study will attend to prominent themes in this body of work, including histories of television and social identity and key periods of institutional and technological change. Because of these multiple foci, the class will alternate between discussions of developments in television history, consideration of methods for pursuing television history, and identification of the priorities, interests, and goals of television studies more broadly. While the main focus of historical inquiry will be US television history, we will take into consideration the global circulation of television and the place of non-US TV in the field. In addition to weekly readings and brief reading response assignments, students will also write a review of a book in television history and a conference-length original research paper focused on television history.

Course Objectives
By the end of this course, students will:
1) understand key developments in US television history
2) understand and apply key methods in television historiography
3) comprehend the chief priorities, interests, and goals of television studies
4) improve your research, writing, and analysis skills through class discussions and course assignments; and
5) deepen your understanding of television as a social, cultural, and political force

Readings may include:
Ron Becker, *Gay TV and Straight America*, Rutgers, 2006