Text


Learning Outcomes

1. From the textbook and handout readings, students will gain a basic knowledge of the history of film and broadcasting in twentieth century American culture, especially how these media reflected and affected evolving cultural norms.

2. Students will view and analyze representative films and television programs, and through essay and identification responses to questions on examinations, demonstrate that they can reflect in an informed manner on several themes: the relationship of media to reality, the social and political implications of media presentation, the competition among media in post-World War II America, and the evolving status of various media in American life up to the start of the cable TV era.

Course Outline

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15-17 Beatles on *Ed Sullivan Show, TAMI Show*
Baughman, Chaps. 5-6

22-24 *Bonnie and Clyde*

29-31 Test #3

April

5-7 Baughman, Chap. 7

12-14 *All in the Family*

19-21 *The Conversation*

26 (Reading Day) Review for Test #4

28 Test #4

Extra-Credit

Review

Policies

Testing: All the major tests will consist of definition, identification, and essay questions, with the essay questions given the greater weight. Test questions will be drawn from the assigned text readings, instructor-prepared handouts, the lectures, and the films/television shows themselves. The final examination will not be cumulative.

Extra-Credit Review: Students will have the option of writing a 1000-1200 word review of a contemporary film or television series. The grade for this review can be substituted for the lowest test grade. Students who choose this option must prepare a draft according to specified guidelines and go over the draft in conference with the instructor before final submission on examination day.

Grading: Each of the four major tests will count one-fourth of the final grade. The final examination will simply be a fourth major test on the material covered between April 7 and April 23. The grading scale is as follows: A, 90-100; B, 80-89; C, 70-79; D, 60-69; F, below 60. The last day to drop a course without receiving a grade of WF is March 3.

Readings: Readings from the textbook are listed in the syllabus by chapter. Sometimes an entire chapter will be assigned, but you may also be given specific pages to read in a given chapter. The test review handout that you will receive before every test will make clear exactly which pages in the text will be testable. All handouts will be testable as well. All handouts and test review materials will be posted on my Faculty Web page. This class will not use Blackboard.

Film Viewing: All of the DVDs for the course will be available on reserve to check out to view in the library.
Academic Honesty: All tests will be administered under an honor system. To help the honor system work, the following policies are in effect: (1) On test days do not bring any books, notes, or paper to the classroom—only your pen. I will provide all paper. (2) If you observe dishonesty of any kind during the test, please report it to me. I will protect your anonymity. (3) I will investigate any evidence of dishonesty, to include plagiarism on out of class papers, and if such dishonesty is proved, I will impose sanctions. These sanctions may involve failure for the test or essay, failure for the course, or dismissal from the course.

Academic Disturbance Policy: Disturbances in classes, labs, during field trips, lectures, presentations, and other academic activities may result in one or more of the following sanctions: verbal reprimand, written warning, permanent dismissal from the class, suspension from the University for a period of time, or permanent suspension from the University. If a student is dismissed from a class after the last day to withdraw from classes, the student will receive an F grade in the class. A student may appeal verbal reprimand, written warning, or permanent dismissal from the class to the Academic Dean. A student may appeal suspension form the University for a period of time or permanent suspension from the University to the Vice Provost for Regional Campuses.

Attendance: Because class attendance is essential for the film viewings, anyone with more than three unexcused absences will be subject to a grade penalty. You can be excused for an absence in three ways: (1) prior agreement with the instructor; (2) legible physician’s or clinic excuse for illness or injury; (3) obituary or funeral program for a death in the family. Once I have warned you about habitual tardiness, each tardiness to class will count as one-half an absence.

Electronic Media Policy

Turn off and stow away all cell phones and other electronic media devices, including laptop computers, before class starts. If you are expecting an important call, let me know before class, and I will give permission to keep your phone on and answer it if necessary. You can also use your device at the end of class to record assignments or photograph the whiteboard.

Office Hours (Founders Hall 219):

MW: 10:45-11:45 am; 2:00-3:30 pm
TTh: 10:45-11:45 am; 2:00-3:30 pm
F: 8:00-9:00 a.m.
Office Phone-- 803-313-7047
Home Phone-- 803-547-0291 (before 9 p.m.)
E-Mail-- bnims@mailbox.sc.edu (No Blackboard email access presently available.)