Readings

Handouts: “The Secret of Superman’s Secret Identity”; “A Guide to Dr. Strangelove, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb”

Text Readings: The Republic of Mass Culture: Chapter 3, pp. 37-56; Chapter 4, pp. 65-90

Historical Terms

VHF broadcast channels

UHF broadcast channels

vaudeville

disc jockeys

the “Red Scare”

the Cold War

genre, and major genres of early TV

the domestic continuity of early TV

Technical Terms

kinescope

broadcast media

melodrama

the War Room

Personalities

Milton Berle

Bill Haley

Elvis Presley

George Reeves

Lucille Ball
Desi Arnaz
Alan Freed
Stanley Kubrick
Peter Sellers

**Other Potential Identify Items**

Major plot events and characters in *Dr. Strangelove* and “Panic in the Sky” (*Adventures of Superman* TV episode)

**Concepts** (for essay questions)

Discuss how *Dr. Strangelove* makes fun of the Cold War nuclear paranoia that gripped the world in the late 1950s and early 1960s; particularly, how the film, through its imagery and references, identifies male sexual needs and sexual aggressiveness as a motivation for warlike behavior.

Discuss the rise of rock and roll music in the 1950s, especially the importance of independent radio stations, disc jockeys, and Elvis Presley’s role as recording artist and TV performer.

Discuss Milton Berle’s *Texaco Star Theatre* as an example of the early, vaudeville-influenced television variety show.

Discuss how “Panic in the Sky” portrays Superman differently from the typical modern movie presentation of the character; how the program’s “amnesia” theme demonstrates the limitations of Superman and the relative importance of Superman’s “Clark Kent” secret identity; and, how *The Adventures of Superman* is also a vehicle for “B-movie” character actors.

**Films** (on reserve in Medford Library, subject to checkout policies on syllabus)

*Dr. Strangelove*, DVD


Milton Berle on *Texaco Star Theatre*, 1949

https://video.search.yahoo.com/video/play;_ylt=A2KIo9clqApVkJAEgYsnIJO6_ylu=X3oDMITByNDY3bGRuBHNIYwNzc0RzbGsDdnmlkBHZ0dWQDBGdwb3MDNQ-;?p=milton+berle+youtube&vid=86c9968617d687496de7789f11fde163&l=56%3A19&turl=http%3A%2F%2Fts3.mm.bing.net%2Ffth%3Fid%3D1VN.608020073712779370%26pid%3D15.1&rurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DghqvldZ7Wso&tit=Texaco+Star+Theater.+November+29%2C+1949&c=4&sig=11bu3tj5g&sigt=116fig9sa&sigi=11ri4drb3&age=1359318289&fr2=p%3As%2Cv%3Av&hsimp=yhs-001&hspart=mozilla&tt=b
Character Lists for the Movie and TV Episode

*Dr. Strangelove*

Group Captain Lionel Mandrake
President Murkin Muffley
Dr. Strangelove
General Jack D. Ripper
General Buck Turgidson
Major J. T. “King” Kong
Ambadessor deSadesky
Premier Kissov
Colonel Bat Guano

“Five Minutes to Doom” (*Adventures of Superman*)

Clark Kent/Superman
Lois Lane
Jimmy Olsen
Perry White