Universidad de Navarra

Television Studies

Subject guide 2026-27

OVERVIEW

Brief Description: Television Studies is a course that proposes to study the specificity of the television medium in the context of communication, fiction, broadcasting news, and entertainment. It will consist of two parts: a historical one and another focused on genres (TV fiction, newscasts, and entertainment shows). As a seminar, students will recognize and debate the critical theoretical issues regarding the development of television as a medium, focusing on two of its differential features: temporality and repetition. This course does not have an exam. However, in an era where tools like ChatGPT are widely used, greater attention will be given to intellectual engagement in the classroom. Students are expected to participate actively in discussions and learning activities.

- **Degree**: Journalism / Screen Studies
- **Module in the Degree Program**:
  - Journalism. Module V. Optional courses
  - Audiovisual Communication. Module VI. Optional courses.
- **ECTS**: 3
- **Year, Semester**: Third/Four, second semester
- **Type of Course**: Optional
- **Professor**: Alberto N. García (albgarcia@unav.es)
- **Language**: English
- **Room, Lecture Schedule**: Room 9 (Communication Building), Friday 12-14

LEARNING OUTCOMES (COMPETENCIES)

1.KNOWLEDGE

- **RA2.** – Understanding and valuing the impact of audiovisual communication on society, culture, history, economics, business, law, science, ethics and technology.
- **RA5.** – Knowing and recognizing the cultural and aesthetic movements that have taken place throughout the history of the photographic and moving image.

2.SKILLS

- **RA11.** - Students should be able to apply their knowledge to their job or vocation in a professional way. They should be able to prove their general competencies by developing and defending arguments and solving problems within their subject area.
- **RA13.** – Communicate knowledge and ideas in the field of audiovisual communication through speeches, presentations, and essays.

PROGRAM

A. TV-Fiction

1. The Third Golden Age of TV-Series
2. Narrative Seriality
3. Antiheroism and TV-Fiction

B. Entertainment TV

1. Mapping Genres
2. Reality TV as a case study
3. Television's New Engines

C. Broadcasting and TV Journalism

1. The problem with infotainment
2. Newscasting: the basics

ACTIVITIES

- **Attending lectures: 30 hours**. Students are expected to attend classes where the Professor will deliver lectures and conduct workshops on specific topics.
- **Writing essays and studying for the exam: 40 hours**. Students are expected to read academic articles or watch specific TV programs to prepare better the papers they have to write and perform the final exam.
- **Watching screeners: 5 hours**. During the course, there will be some compulsory screeners. Students must watch them before class.

Total student workload: **75 hours**.

EVALUATION

ORDINARY

- **Participation (30%)**. Students are expected to attend classes. However, assessment is not based only on attendance. It is based on the frequency and quality of student participation in seminar discussion, including the extent to which participation demonstrates that students have done the required reading/viewing and come to class prepared to discuss and ask questions about it.
- **Brief Essays (30%)**. Students must write a 400-700 words essay on the topic proposed by the tutor. These essays will be announced one week beforehand in class. Sometimes they will be related to a specific TV program, sometimes to an academic text. It is not necessary to use a bibliography. There will be 4-5 brief essays throughout the course. Regularly, written tests in the form of open-ended questions will be required during classes to assess the student's learning.
- ~~**Research Essay (written) or Audiovisual Essay (35%)**. For this assignment, students may choose to either write a 3000 word research essay or create a ten-minute audiovisual piece. In both cases, students offer a critical engagement with a television program from one of the theoretical perspectives covered in the course. The essay must include at least three sources of bibliography. The students must discuss their approach and methodology with the tutor.~~
- **Exam or Audiovisual Essay (35%)** Due to the emergence of generative AI and the need to ensure academic integrity and authentic student authorship, the traditional long-form research essay has been replaced by a formal exam. For this assignment, students may choose to either sit a **written exam** or create a **ten-minute audiovisual piece**. In both cases, students must offer a critical engagement with a television program from one of the theoretical perspectives covered in the course.
  - **Exam option:** Students will demonstrate their ability to apply theoretical frameworks and cite relevant bibliography in a controlled setting.
  - **Audiovisual option:** Students must discuss their approach and methodology with the tutor beforehand to ensure the project meets the academic standards of the course.
- **Personal Meeting (5%)**. A 20-30 minutes dialogue on the Audiovisual Essay clarifies possible issues and strengthens the proposal.

EXTRAORDINARY

- If any student fails in May, they should resubmit the tasks (brief essays or Exam or Audiovisual Essay) that obtained less than five over 10 points.

OFFICE HOURS

Alberto N. García (albgarcia@unav.es)

- Office 1610. Library Building. Floor 1.
- Office hours: Wednesdays 10.30-11.30 and Fridays 9.30-11.30.

READING LIST AND RESOURCES

Both readings and screenings will be announced beforehand so the student can have enough time to work on them before the class.

- García, Alberto N. (2016), "Moral Emotions, Antiheroes and the Limits of Allegiance." In *Emotions in Contemporary TV Series*, edited by Alberto N. García, Basingstoke, Palgrave McMillan, pp. 52-70.Localízalo en la Biblioteca impreso Localízalo en la Biblioteca electrónico
- Keane, Michael & Moran, Albert (2008), "Television's New Engines." *Television & New Media* 9(2): 155-169.Localízalo en la Biblioteca
- Duke, Paul (2005), "What's Happening to TV Journalism". *Television Quarterly* 35(2): 4-9. Localízalo en la Biblioteca
- TV-Series pilot: *Breaking Bad*.
- *Hell's Kitchen* episode (5.13. in Daily Motion)
- Interview Cathy Newman-Jordan B. Peterson (Channel 4, Youtube)