

FI345-15 Television Case Studies (Final Year)

26/27

Department

SCAPVC – Film and Television Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Richard Wallace

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Television Case Studies extends your engagement with television as a medium and Television Studies as a discipline by focusing in-depth on a small number of focused case studies.

Module aims

Television Case Studies extends your engagement with television as a medium and Television Studies as a discipline by focusing in-depth on a small number of focused case studies. Each topic will focus on a different aspect of televisual media addressed from a range of historical, critical and theoretical perspectives so as to continue to develop your understanding of key aspects of television history and critical theory. By the end of the module you will have a detailed understanding of the case studies under discussion and you will have further developed key skills of textual analysis, historical research and analysis, and the theoretical and conceptual understanding of television as an object of study.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Case studies will change from year-to-year to match the research specialisms of the module leader. Previous case studies taught on the module include 'television and value' (examining a range of concepts that have been key to the critical reception and understanding of television including: Public Service Broadcasting; 'quality'; and the notion of 'the cinematic'; archiving; national specificity) and fact-fiction hybridity (focusing on a range of hybrid forms including docu-soaps; serial documentaries; constructed reality programming; mockumentaries).

Case-Study 1: Evaluating Television: Quality and Value

Week One: Public Service Broadcasting in Britain

Screening: Various episodes of Doctor Who from 1963- (BBC)

Week Two: What is 'Quality Television'? 1: The British Case

Screening: Brideshead Revisited (Granada, 1981)

Week Three: What is 'Quality Television'? 2: HBO

Screening: The Sopranos (HBO, 1999-2007), Sex and the City (HBO, 1998-2004); Girls (HBO, 2012-2017)

Week Four: Value and 'Place'

Screening: Happy Valley (Red, 2014-); Sex Education (Netflix, 2019-)

Week Five: 'Cinematic' Television

Screening: Lost (ABC, 2004-2010), Breaking Bad (AMC, 2008-2013)

Case Study 2: Television Documentary and Hybridity

Week Seven: Television Documentary

Screening: Seven Up! (Granada Television, UK, 1964); Video Nation Shorts: various (BBC, UK, 1993-); Hospital (BBC, 2017-)

Week Eight: Reality Television

Screening: Driving School (BBC, 1997); Wife Swap (RDF Media, 2003-2009); Made in Chelsea (E4productions / Monkey Kingdom Productions, 2001-)

Week Nine: The Fictionalised Documentary

Screening: Act of God (Thames Television, 1980); Blaired Vision (Alison Jackson, Mentorn, 2007)

Week Ten: The Television Mockumentary

Screening: Ghostwatch (BBC, 1992)

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- demonstrate a detailed understanding of the theoretical and conceptual issues studied and be able to communicate these clearly and with precision.
- confidently test and apply their knowledge of a range of specific areas of television history, theory and analysis.
- demonstrate their ability to identify and define research questions.

- demonstrate their knowledge of a range of different television genres, concepts and debates.
- offer critical, evaluative textual analyses of a range of different forms of television that is not limited to programmes studied on the module.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

Research element

Students will conduct research for their essays - including designing their own question

Subject specific skills

This module develops skills of audio-visual literacy, through close textual and/or contextual analysis in relation to the moving image and sound with particular relevance to television and televisual media. It may also develop understandings of historical, theoretical and conceptual frameworks relevant to screen arts and cultures.

Transferable skills

- audio-visual literacy
- critical and analytical thinking in relation
- independent research skills
- team work
- clarity and effectiveness of communication, oral and written
- accurate, concise and persuasive writing
- audio-visual literacy

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Other activity	18 hours (12%)
Private study	114 hours (76%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Weekly reading and viewing in preparation for classes, plus work preparing for essays and exams

Other activity description

Screenings

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
5,000 word essay	100%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback plus an annotated essay document are provided via Tabula. Oral feedback via tutorial where requested.

Availability

Pre-requisites

To take this module, you must have passed:

- All of
 - [FI348-15 Film Analysis and Methods](#)
 - [FI352-15 Film History and Methods](#)

- [FI114-15 Film and Television Analysis](#)

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of UFIA-W620 Undergraduate Film Studies
- Year 4 of UFIA-W621 Undergraduate Film Studies (with Year Abroad)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 4 of UFIA-QW26 Undergraduate Film and Literature (with Study Abroad)