

## MDIA 302 Television Narrative

**Trimester 2 2015**

13 July to 15 November 2015

**20 Points**

### IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates:	13 July to 16 October 2015
Mid-trimester break:	24 August to 6 September 2015
Last assessment item due:	26 October 2015

Withdrawal dates:

Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds). If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

### CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Friday	10.00am-11.50am	77 Fairlie Terrace FT77 306
--------	-----------------	-----------------------------

### Tutorials

Tutorials begin in WEEK 2. Please register for tutorials via the MDIA 302 site on Blackboard: go to “Tutorial Instructions” and follow the instructions carefully. Remember to record your tutorial time, day and room for future reference.

### NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Staff:	Trisha Dunleavy
Email:	<a href="mailto:trisha.dunleavy@vuw.ac.nz">trisha.dunleavy@vuw.ac.nz</a>
Phone:	04 463 6843
Room:	203, 81 Fairlie Terrace
Office Hours:	Thursday 1.00-2.00pm

## COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

There are two systems of course support outside of actual classes. Please use **Blackboard** to sign up for tutorials. All other online course documentation (regarding lectures, assignments, additional reading suggestions, and any information about required changes) will be found on **Blackboard**.

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

## PRESCRIPTION

This course examines narrative strategies and tendencies in contemporary primetime television programming, both fictional and factual. Applying screen narrative theory and using textual analysis, we will examine what kinds of stories TV tells us and the narrative strategies it uses. Narrative forms to be studied include: series and serial drama, continuing soap opera, scripted (series) comedy, 'reality' game-doc and 'reality' docusoap.

## COURSE CONTENT

Lecture topics for this course are organised into three interrelated sections. These are:

- Narrative contexts, structures and theory;
- Narrative modes; and
- Case studies in narrative form, genre and institutional approach.

Please see the list of lectures (last page of this outline) for more detail about MDIA 302 lecture topics.

## COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. Understand key theoretical concepts and how different approaches to TV narrative are indicative of television form;
2. Develop a functional familiarity with current academic research into the leading fictional and factual television genres;
3. Have the ability to analyse and evaluate narrative structures across factual as well as fictional TV programmes;
4. Understand some of the cultural appeals (local, transnational, and universal) with which TV narratives are imbued; and
5. Draw linkages between the narrative forms that constitute the current 'post-broadcast' era of television (including those produced for cable and internet networks) and the mix of cultural and institutional influences that inform and shape these.

NB. Assessment items for this course are cumulatively designed to test student learning and understandings of *all* of the above aims and objectives. This coverage is ensured by the prohibition of any duplication of topics or material between assignment questions.

### TEACHING FORMAT

Lectures are characterised by a teacher-led approach, supported by powerpoint notes and indicative production clips. Student Notes (these augmented by the more recent readings identified for you on Blackboard) provide essential support for each lecture and students are strongly advised to read as many as possible of the items related to the topic before each week's lecture. One or two items will be **identified as priority** and it is important to have completed your reading of these before the tutorial on each topic. The attendance threshold that applies to MDIA 302 lectures and tutorials recognises that in this subject, students who miss a proportion of classes perform less well and require more individual assistance from staff than those who do attend a clear majority of classes.

In MDIA 302 the tutorial schedule is deliberately designed so that tutorials follow the lecture topics by one week. This one-week time-lag is important in facilitating adequate preparation time for the tutorial seminars (we will aim to start these in Week 5 and these will continue until Week 12). Tutorials are highly interactive and are designed to incorporate considerable input from tutorial members. Students need to have prepared for tutorial discussions by completing the weekly readings before class. NB. Because several readings per topic have been included in the reader, a list of priority readings (1-2) per topic will be identified and posted on Blackboard soon after the first lecture.

Students should assume that the staff involved in this course will put maximum effort into teaching at a high level. To take full advantage of this commitment by staff, students are encouraged to actively engage with the material offered in MDIA 302. In addition to the minimum requirements for attending classes and completing assignments, an active engagement means reading the required academic items every week; viewing programme examples outside of classes; searching for more information about topics of special interest; participating in class discussions; and devoting a genuine intellectual energy to assessment tasks.

### MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- Submit the two essays and presentation write-up by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- Deliver a tutorial presentation on the set date for the topic that you sign up to present on
- Meet the attendance threshold requirements outlined below

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies  
MEDIA STUDIES PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE MDIA 302

There is a mandatory lecture attendance requirement in place for MDIA 302 and the reason for this is that attendance at lectures is not only vital for successful in individual progress but is also vital to maximising the value of tutorial presentations and arising discussions in our class. To gain a pass in MDIA 302 you must:

- Attend a minimum of 7 two-hour lectures out of 12 in total
- Attend a minimum of 6 tutorials out of 11 in total

Accordingly, in this course records of attendance are kept for each lecture as well as for each tutorial. At the lecture you must place **your initials** next to your name on one of the 9-10 sets of student names that are handed around at each lecture. Attendance will be taken **by your tutor** at the beginning of each tutorial.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of these mandatory course requirements because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

### WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 20-point course is 200 hours over the trimester or 13 hours per teaching week.

### ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 <b>First Essay – 2,600 words</b> Narrative Analysis of a TV Drama Series or Serial	35%	1, 2, 3	Thursday 20 August 5pm
2 <b>Tutorial Presentation</b> Topic sign up will occur in Week 3, Tutorial 2.	25%	1,2,3,4	Week 5 to 12 (TBA)
3 <b>Final Essay – 3,000 words</b> Critical Analysis of a Television Series or Serial	40%	1,2,3,4 and 5	Tuesday 27 October 5pm

Marking Criteria will be posted on Blackboard by Week 3 of this trimester.

### SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Work provided for assessment in this course will be checked for academic integrity by Turnitin. Follow the instructions provided in the “Assignments and Turnitin” section of Blackboard. Assignments for MDIA 302 will be submitted in two ways: 1) as a hard copy and 2) as an electronic submission to Turnitin.

Hardcopy assignments are submitted in the drop slot outside the administration office: **83 Fairlie Terrace**. Attach an assignment cover sheet found on Blackboard or outside the administration office. Remember to fill in your tutor's name. Please do not use plastic folders.

Your marked assignment will be handed back by your tutor in tutorials or during their office hours. Any uncollected assignments can be picked up from the Programme Administrator after the last day of teaching. Assignments will be held in the administration office until the end of the following trimester. You need to show your student identification to collect marked assignment from the administration office.

## EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

### Extensions

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. To apply for an extension, email your Course Coordinator before the assignment is due. If granted, your Course Coordinator will inform you of the new due date. Tutors cannot grant extensions. No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after **Friday 13 November 2015**.

### Penalties

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

## SET TEXTS

MDIA 302 Student Notes.

You can order student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz).

## RECOMMENDED READING

The books below are available in the library, some in multiple copy and others as electronic items. Whilst most of them will be consulted by MDIA 302 students at some point during the course, it is not expected that you will purchase these texts.

- Glen Creeber (2005) *Serial Television: Big Drama on the Small Screen*, British Film Institute: London
- Glen Creeber (2013) *Small Screen Aesthetics: from Television to the Internet*, Palgrave Macmillan: Basingstoke
- Trisha Dunleavy (2009) *Television Drama: Form, Agency, Innovation*, Palgrave Macmillan: Basingstoke
- Gary R. Edgerton and Brian G Rose eds. (2008) *The Essential HBO Reader*, The University Press of Kentucky: Kentucky

- Jonathan Gray (2006) *Watching With The Simpsons: Television, Parody and Intertextuality*, Routledge: New York and London
- Su Holmes and Deborah Jermyn ed. (2004) *Understanding Reality Television* Routledge: London and New York
- Misha Kavka (2008) *Reality Television Affect and Intimacy: Reality Matters*, Palgrave MacMillan: Basingstoke
- Richard Kilborn and John Izod (1997) *An Introduction to Television Documentary: Confronting Reality*, Manchester University Press: Manchester and New York
- Carol A. Stabile and Mark Harrison eds. (2003) *Prime Time Animation: Television Animation and American Culture*, London and New York: Routledge
- Jason Mittell (2015) *Complex TV: The Poetics of Contemporary TV Storytelling*, New York: New York University Press
- Koos Zwaan and Joost de Bruin eds. (2012) *Adapting Idols: Authenticity, Identity and Performance in a Global TV Format*, Ashgate

#### CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

#### STUDENT FEEDBACK

The narrative focus of this course is relevant to all TV programming regardless of what kind of media institution (TV or internet) created it. MDIA 302 has received very favourable assessments from students each time it has been taught, this feedback most frequently involving qualitative end of course evaluations but also extending to the (qualitative) comments that students make either on feedback forms or to the course coordinator by email. In qualitative feedback received to date, students have underlined that they find this course invaluable and accessible, this same outcome occurs whether or not they have completed other MDIA courses involving a focus on TV texts.

In week six or seven of the trimester your class representative will be invited to a meeting with the Programme staff. In week five your class representative will ask the class for any feedback on this course to discuss at this meeting.

### OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:  
[www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)
- School website: [www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms)

## COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1    17 July    Changing Contexts for TV Creation (No tutorial)

Week 2    24 July    Narrative Theory (First tutorial)

Week 3    31 July    Series and Serial Form

Week 4    7 Aug    Realism

Week 5    14 Aug    Melodrama (First tutorial presentations)

Week 6    21 Aug    Intertextuality

**Mid Trimester Break:** Monday 24 August to Sunday 6 September 2015

Week 7    11 Sept    Narratives of Crime

Week 8    18 Sept    Narrative Complexity in Series and Serial Drama

Week 9    25 Sept    TV Narrative and Transmediality

Week 10    2 Oct    TV Narrative and Format Adaptation

Week 11    9 Oct    Mixed Genre Narration: Docusoap and Comedy Verité

Week 12    16 Oct    Narratives of Competition: the 'Reality' Game-Doc (Last tutorial presentations)

- **First Essay – 2,600 words – 35%**  
Due: Thursday 20 August, 5pm
- **Final Essay – 3,000 words – 40%**  
Due: Tuesday 27 October, 5pm
- **Tutorial Presentation – 25%**  
These will begin in Week 5 and run every tutorial thereafter