

21L 432/CMS 915 Understanding Television
<http://web.mit.edu/21L.432/www/home/html>
Prof. David Thorburn

Spring 2008
T, Th 3-4:30, 1-134
Screenings: M, 7-9. 1-134

Required Texts:

Erik Barnouw, *Tube of Plenty* (Oxford)
Tim Brooks and Earle Marsh, *The Complete Directory to Prime Time TV Shows* (Ballantine)
MIT Communications Forum Web site: <http://web.mit.edu/comm-forum/>

Recommended texts (many of which will be placed on reserve in the Reserved Book Room, Bld. 14):

1. Reference works and collections of essays

Richard P. Adler, ed., *Understanding Television*
Robert Allen, ed., *Channels of Discourse*
Tino Balio, ed., *Hollywood in the Age of Television*
Les Brown, ed., *The New York Times Encyclopedia of Television*
Glen Creeber. *The Television Genre Book*
Jane Feuer, Paul Kerr, Tise Vahimagi, ed., *MTM: "Quality Television"*
Michael Gurevitch, Tony Bennett, et al. eds, *Culture, Society and the Media*
Michelle Hilmes, ed., *NBC: America's Network*
_____, ed., *The Television History Book*
E. Ann Kaplan, ed., *Regarding Television*
Donald Lazere, ed., *American Media and Mass Culture: Left Perspectives*
Alex McNeil, *Total Television*
Tania Modleski, ed., *Studies in Entertainment*
Horace Newcomb, ed., *Television: The Critical View*
_____, ed., *Encyclopedia of Television*
John E. O'Connor, ed., *American History/American Television*

2. Critical and historical studies

Robert Allen, *Speaking of Soap Operas*
Christopher Anderson, *Hollywood TV*
Ien Ang, *Watching Dallas*
Ien Ang, *Living Room Wars: Rethinking Media Audiences*
Roland Barthes, *Mythologies*
William Boddy, *Fifties Television: The Industry and Its Critics*
Charlotte Brunson and David Morley, *Everyday Television*
Peter Burke, *Popular Culture in Early Modern Europe*
John Thornton Caldwell, *Televisuality: Style, Crisis, and Authority in American Television*
James Carey, *Communication As Culture*
John Cawelti, *Adventure, Mystery and Romance*
Derek Kompare. *Rerun Nation*
Daniel Dayan and Elihu Katz, *Media Events: The Live Broadcasting of History*
Melvin Patrick Ely, *The Adventures of Amos 'N Andy: A Social History*
John Fisk and John Hartley, *Reading Television*
John Fiske, *Television Culture*
Clifford Geertz, *The Interpretation of Cultures*
Todd Gitlin, *Inside Prime Time*
Michele Hilmes, *Hollywood and Broadcasting: From Radio to Cable*
Henry Jenkins, *Textual Poachers*
J. Fred MacDonald, *One Nation Under Television: The Rise and Fall of Network TV*
_____, *Blacks and White TV*
David Marc, *Demographic Vistas*
David Marc, *Comic Visions*
Robert W. McChesney, *Rich Media, Poor Democracy*

Jason Mittell, *Genre and Television: From Cop Shows to Cartoon in American Culture*
Tania Modleski, *Loving with a Vengeance*
David Morley, *Family Television*
Laura Mulvey, *Visual and Other Pleasures*
Horace Newcomb, *TV: The Most Popular Art*
Horace Newcomb and Robert S. Alley, *The Producer's Medium*
Patricia Palmer, *The Lively Audience: A study of children around the TV set*
Lynn Spigel, *Make Room for TV: Television and the Family Ideal in Postwar America*
Thomas Streeter, *Selling the Air*
Robert J. Thompson, *Television's Second Golden Age : From Hill Street Blues to ER*
John Tulloch and Henry Jenkins, *Science Fiction Audiences*
Raymond Williams, *Television: Technology and Cultural Form*

Required attendance at these events:

MIT Communications Forum

March 6: Prime Time in Transition

March 13: Global Television

Both 5-7 p.m., Bartos Theater, MIT Media Lab

Key deadlines:

Exams:

Midterm: March 20

Final Exam: May 8

Papers (or installments) due:

Feb. 28, April 3, May 1