



Survey of Television History

CTCS 504 - Prof. Ellen Seiter - Mondays 10:00am-1:50pm

This course examines television shows as cultural artifacts and industrial products that reflect and refract such issues as class, consumerism, gender, race, sexuality, and national identity. This course will focus on four topics: US television 50s-80s; European public broadcast television and the rise of US imports; Korean television; and the rise of streaming platforms. Screenings include game shows, crime dramas, family sitcoms, prime time serials and "quality" HBO and Amazon series. We will focus on understanding business models, the public interest standard, deregulation, the international TV marketplace and changes brought about by streaming platforms. The course is intended to help you develop a critical framework for understanding television as a cultural, economic, and political institution, and it will encourage you to become critically informed television viewers.

