

**Course Outline for:** THTR 1117 Introduction to Television and Digital Media**A. Course Description:**

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: None
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: Goal #6 - Humanities and the Fine Arts  
Goal #7A - Human Diversity, Race, Power, and Justice in the United States

From black-and-white broadcasts to on-demand streaming, television and digital media have revolutionized the way we experience stories. Explore this rapidly evolving medium, and examine diverse genres, styles, and production techniques while exploring how media reflects and shapes perceptions of race, gender, class, and other social identities. Analyze how television and digital media have portrayed various groups in the United States over time, influencing societal values and responses to diversity.

**B. Date last reviewed/updated:** February 2025**C. Outline of Major Content Areas:**

1. History and evolution of the television/digital media industry including the many groups that shape society and culture.
2. Narrative structure of programs
3. Examination of production elements including design, editing, directing, acting, and producing
4. Exploration of various television genres
5. Audience impact of various types of television and digital media
6. The shifting power dynamic of the television/digital media industry based on analysis of historical structural inequities.

**D. Course Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify major historical figures and technological advances from television's beginnings through the rise of the Network Era – including prominent voices from underrepresented communities. (Goal 6a, 7Aa)
2. Analyze the evolution of television and digital media, focusing on the representation of the experiences and contributions of historically marginalized groups (Goal 2b, 2c, 6a, 6b, 7Aa, 7Ad)
3. Critique theme-driven, plot driven, and character-driven shows, focusing on how these approaches vary based on the personal identity of the storyteller/creator. (Goal 2d, 6a, 6c, 7Aa, 7Ad)
4. Evaluate various production modes, styles, and techniques used in television and digital media. (Goal 2d, 6c)

5. Articulate how your own beliefs about racism and bigotry have been shaped by portrayals of different groups and cultures in television and digital media. (Goal 2d, 6b, 7Ac)
6. Synthesize various analytical methods to interpret meaning in television and new media programming. (Goal 2b, 2d, 6a, 6b, 6c, 6e)

**E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:**

Methods for assessment may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Quizzes
2. Essays
3. Individual and Group Projects
4. Final Exam

**F. Special Information:**

None