

MASS COMM 220: Understanding Television

Annotated Bibliography (10%)

Each student will select a research topic in television studies and conduct a search for scholarly literature on that topic. Students will prepare a thesis statement and research rationale, and will create a list of ten peer-reviewed scholarly works (books, journal articles and/or government publications) that are closely focused on that topic. Students will create an original 100-200 word summary of each article as part of the submitted bibliography. Due at the end of Week 6.

Format of Written Submission

There is less emphasis on describing a specific television program, and more emphasis on analysis of an issue in television studies. Some of these issues are raised in our readings with respect to certain locations, cultures, genders, historical periods, TV genres, or specific TV shows, but there is much latitude in terms of how you frame your research. One good way to begin with developing your research is to consider whether, and to what extent the various parts of the cycles of production, distribution, or consumption of television interest you. In starting your research, consider asking a question like the questions posed below. Note: THESE ARE NOT THESIS STATEMENTS. They are suggested questions you can use to begin exploring the literature.

- How are genre conventions enacted in {INSERT SHOW TITLE HERE} in ways that reflect and reinforce gender norms in the country/ies in which that program air(s)?
- Why do some audience groups (differentiated by race, class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, etc.) interpret {INSERT SHOW TITLE HERE} differently from (an)other group(s)?
- Why is it that {INSERT SPECIALTY CHANNEL, FORMAT, OR NETWORK HERE} has achieved international appeal? How do variations in the way the program is presented in different countries reflect different cultural and social patterns of consumption?

If you want more help developing an approach to your research, please come see me in office hours.

With this assignment, feel free to use any of the required readings in the class as your starting point for analyzing the issue you've chosen.

The grade:

This assignment is worth 10 per cent of your final mark. The thoughtfulness, appropriateness, narrowness, and clarity of your thesis statement will be a key criterion in the evaluation of this assignment. The appropriateness of your references (for this course, and for your individual thesis) will also be closely evaluated. These two things (the thesis and the cohesive set of references) will be weighted equally in the assessment.