



**Course:** UNIV 100 – Section H21    **Theme:** Popular Culture

**Course Topic:** *U.S. TV: History & Pop Culture*

**Description:** Students will learn how to analyze and interrogate their understanding of American culture and society through the medium of television. Students will learn that popular culture often acts as a commentary to a society's values and cultural norms. Thus, much can be gleaned from television shows regarding the changing nature of American society, including such topics as race, gender, sexuality, standard of living, politics, religion, and entertainment itself. The class will examine these different facets of American society and culture as they've changed and evolved from the 1950s to the present day, including the transition to reality television. By the end of class, students will possess the ability to think critically about television programming and how American culture is reflected through the entertainment medium, while acknowledging what makes or doesn't make a television show entertaining. Students will learn team work through group activities designed to encourage creativity and responsibility.