History of Radio and Television

Prof. Francesco Buscemi

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course explores the history of radio and television and the aesthetic and cultural shifts that have contributed to the evolution of these media. The course covers key theories and methodologies. Students will listen and watch radio and television programmes under the guidance of the lecturer as part of the course.

Intended learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding:

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

Identify a consistent line of development of radio and television in Italy.

Recognise the link between programmes and cultural, social and political changes in Italy in the same period

Distinguish between the various theories of the media and assess their strengths and weaknesses.

Describe course content clearly and understand similarities and differences in other countries.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

Critically choose from programmes on offer daily on TV and radio.

Apply the most suitable media theories to critically assess radio and TV.

Measure the value of a radio or TV programme and insert it into a wider context, both historically, socio-culturally and politically.

Assess the content and meaning of a radio or TV programme and understand what lies behind it.

Compare what has happened in Italy with what has happened in other countries in terms of media, but also socially, culturally and politically.

Design radio and TV programmes and understand the work that lies behind a programme.

Independent judgment

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

Assess the development of the Italian media and society from different points of view.

Choose a point of view via the dynamics found in the Italian media and society.

Communication skills

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

Present projects, ideas and thoughts clearly and succinctly

Summarise media points of view filtered through media theories studied during the course.

Interact within work groups.

Learning skills

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

Understand meaning via a combination of words and images

Summarise the in-depth meaning of image language

Understand the best method for understanding audio-visual notions.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Semester 1: General section. The history of radio and television: genres, show scheduling and specific “languages” from their origins to the present day, primarily in Italy but touching on foreign (e.g. Great Britain and the USA) and global models (global channels: global formats and Italian adaptations; online TV). The theories and methods that help us understand the various stages of this history.

Semester 2: Single-subject course. TV series: their narrative structures and technical strategies. The course aims to examine the narrative structures of some TV series of the last years and, when the subjects are not original, the differences with the texts on which they are based. It will include also an in-depth analysis of Italian case studies, such as *Gomorra* or *Romanzo Criminale*, which have been books at first, then films, and finally TV series.

***READING LIST***

**General section:**

Lecture content plus:

Buscemi, F. ‘Non è la Rai: Storia e modelli del telegiornale in Gran Bretagna’. In *Speciale TG,* edited by G. Simonelli, 5th edition. (2012) Novara: Interlinea.

Gozzini,G. *La mutazione individualista. Gli italiani e la televisione, 1954-2011*.

(2011) Bari: Laterza.

Simonelli, G. *Cari amici vicini e lontani. L’avventurosa storia della radio.* (2012) Milan:

Bruno Mondadori.

**In-depth study:**

Lecture content plus:

Dusi, N. e Grignaffini, G., *Capire le serie TV:* Generi, stili, pratiche. (2020) Rome: Carocci

Details of further materials will be provided in lectures and on Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course is based on frontal lectures supplemented with audio and video material and group work during which students will practice their critical skills of audio-visual material.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

An oral exam, which will take place on the official exam dates from the summer session onwards, and focus on the textbooks and lecture content.

Attending students may take a pre-exam assessment in one of the first lectures on semester 2 and will cover the general section of the course (the texts on the reading list and lecture content). For those who pass the pre-exam assessment, the final exam (on the official exam dates from the summer session onwards) will only cover the in-depth study part.

The final assessment will take into account result of the pre-exam assessment, group work, performance in practical classes and final oral exam. The group work can only add marks to the final result (from 1 to 3), and not detract from it.

Non-attending students will be assessed on the whole syllabus, the general (texts on the reading list and lecture content) as well as the in-depth study part (texts on the reading list and lecture content) on the official exam dates from the summer session onwards.

Students will be assessed on their understanding of course material and interaction between the media and society, use of theoretical tools presented during the course, ability to construct arguments and find links between lecture discussions, and experience of the media.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.