Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD003647	**Version:** 3 **Date Amended:** 20/Jan/2025

1. Module Title
Contemporary Television

2a. Module Leader
Harriet Fletcher

2b. School
Cambridge School of the Creative Industries

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
6

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions

Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	BA (Hons) Film and Media		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module focuses on contemporary television, exploring a range of different genres, including drama, comedy and 'reality' shows. Specific programmes will be explored and analysed in screenings and seminars. These programmes are examined not simply as texts but as specific examples around which larger areas of debate and discussion (including, for example, genre, feminism, the representation of family, etc.) can be explored. The wider context in which these programmes are situated (e.g. technology, institution, audience and the changing context of television) will also be explored. Your research and writing skills will be refined through an assessed study of a popular television show of your choice. You will be assessed on the basis of your ability to apply theoretical ideas and debates to a close study of individual programmes. Possible programmes for discussion range from classic series (such as The Singing Detective, Six Feet Under, The Wire, and Twin Peaks) to the most recent hits, which are updated on a year-by-year basis.

6b. Outline Content

- Reality TV and Discourses of the 'Live'
- Television and Ideology
- Contemporary Music Television
- Science fiction programmes
- Audiences, Fandom and Reception
- Televisual Affect: TV, Affect, and Intimacy
- Narrative Complexity in the Contemporary Crime Drama
- Experimental British Television
- Queer Television
- Web Television and New Media

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Seminar rooms with DVD screening facilities

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	**Type**	**On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:**
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate breadth and depth of understanding of a range of key theoretical approaches to the study of contemporary television
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Explore and critically evaluate a range of debates in the development of contemporary television theory and relate these to the close study of individual television programmes
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Evidence competence in reflexive study, research presentation and writing skills in the production of televisual analysis
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critically assess and evaluate the relationship between television, mode of production, audiences, and the larger media context

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	**Occurrence**	**Period**	**Location**	**Mode of Delivery**
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	**Hours**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Details of Duration, frequency and other comments**
Lectures	0	None	None
Other teacher managed learning	24	1-4	2 hour Seminar per week
Student managed learning	126	1-4	Independent reading, viewing, research and preparation of assignments
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	80 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Critical Analysis Essay 2500 words					

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Practical	1-4	20 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Reception Study 500 words					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:
(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
(b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]