



Professor Jacqui Frost

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Office Hours: By appointment (email Dr. Frost to set up a time to meet virtually or in person)

Course Description

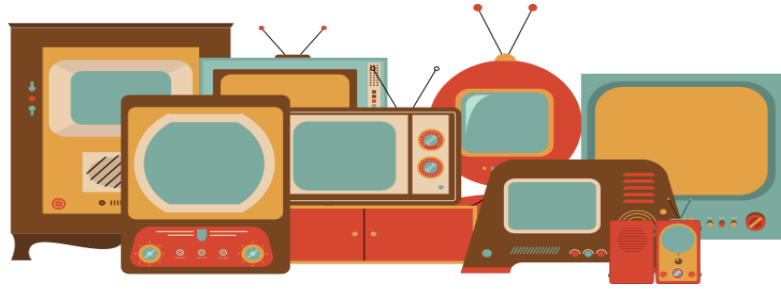
This course uses television shows to explore sociological perspectives on culture. The premise of this class is that we can learn a great deal about how culture is constructed, shared, consumed, and contested from watching (and critically analyzing) television shows. We will read theoretical and empirical work about how culture is defined in the social sciences and some of the leading approaches to studying culture in sociology, and then use those concepts to analyze popular television shows. The study of culture centrally concerns the place of meaning in human life, and we will explore how television shapes and is shaped by culture. We will consider how signs, symbols, language, conceptual structures, forms of knowledge, and forms of power interact to create meaning in our life. Cultural change both produces and is produced by changes in meaning, and we will investigate how cultural change occurs, with a focus on topics like changes to American cultures of love, work, religion, and politics.

Teaching Assistant

Email:

Office Hours:

Office Location:



Learning Objectives

- At the end of this course, you will be able to...
 - Identify key concepts and theories central to the sociology of culture through readings and written responses.
 - Explain how cultural change occurs and how power and inequality are central to the ways cultural norms change through papers and class discussions.
 - Describe how television both reflects and shapes American culture through papers and class discussions.
 - Apply concepts from sociology of culture to critically evaluate popular media through papers and workshops.

Course Readings and Brightspace Course Site

There are no required texts for this course. **All readings are posted on our Brightspace site.** Access the course site via Purdue's Brightspace learning management system. It is strongly suggested that you become familiar with the content and resources available for this course. See the Student Services widget on your Brightspace homepage for resources such as Technology Help, Academic Help, Campus Resources, and Protect Purdue.

TV Episodes

While you do not have to purchase a textbook for this course, you will need to either pay for a subscription to HBO for two months or get access to the two seasons of television we are watching in some other way. **The two seasons we will be watching this semester – Season 1 of *Abbot Elementary* and Season 1 of *New Girl* – are both on Hulu.** We will be watching these shows starting September 18 and ending November 17. This means you will only need a Hulu subscription for that two-month period, which should cost no more than \$30 (though it is cheaper if you allow ads and/or you may get a discount if you are new to Hulu). You could also rent or buy these two seasons of TV on Amazon Prime or on DVD if you prefer. You will also need access to a season of TV of your choosing for your final paper. **To be successful in this course, you will need reliable access to these shows.**

Hybrid Fridays

This is a hybrid course, meaning that we will meet in person during the scheduled time on Mondays and Wednesdays, but **we will not meet at all on Fridays**. Instead, you will have 50 minutes' worth of structured work each week that you do on your own (this is outside of the course readings assigned each week). For the majority of the semester, this hybrid time will be spent watching assigned television shows.

Grading

<i>Participation</i>	100 points
<i>Media Diary</i>	50 points
<i>TV Reflection Essays</i>	50 points (2 total – 25 points each)
<i>Exams</i>	150 points (2 total – 75 points each)
<i>Sociological TV Review</i>	150 points
<i>Outline</i>	30 points
<i>Final Paper</i>	120 points
Total	500 points

Grading Scale

A = 465 – 500 points	C = 365 – 384 points
A- = 450 – 464 points	C- = 350 – 364 points
B+ = 435 – 449 points	D+ = 335 – 349 points
B = 415 – 434 points	D = 315 – 334 points
B- = 400 – 414 points	D- = 300 – 314 points
C+ = 385 – 399 points	F = 299 points or less

Attendance and Late Submissions

Attendance is linked to your participation score and will be tracked through regular in-class activities. Attendance is required unless you have a university-approved excuse. University-approved excuses for missing class include a physical illness, a mental health issue, or a pressing family matter. You will be allowed three unexcused absences (not during exam weeks), and then **you will lose 4 points off your participation grade for every unexcused absence**. In order to get credit for an excused absence, you must have proof of email approval from Dr. Frost.

I accept late work only when you have obtained permission in advance or in the event an emergency arises on a due date. **You will lose 4 points for every day late you turn in an assignment**. In order to get credit for an extension, you must have proof of email approval from Dr. Frost.

!!Extra Credit!!

There are 30 points of extra credit available to those interested.

You can get 10 extra credit points if you submit either a 1-page review of a TV episode or a 1-page review of a TV advertisement. Your review needs to incorporate at least one concept from the course readings. You can submit up to 3 reviews (30 points total).

Email extra credit reviews to Dr. Frost. The last day to submit extra credit is December 8th.

Assignment Descriptions (detailed assignment guidelines will be provided separately)

- *Participation (100 points)*

Participation is a key component to success in any college course, but it is especially important in a course like this where we are learning about shared cultural norms. This course is structured around in-class lectures and discussions about the assigned readings and TV shows, which means it will be difficult to do well in the course if you are not in class and actively participating. In order to facilitate that, your participation will be tracked through attendance and in-class activities.

- *Media Diary (50 points)*

For this assignment, you will keep track of all the media you consume for five full days and log/reflect on your media habits from the perspective of a cultural sociologist. You can choose to do your diary entries five days in a row or you can pick and choose five non-consecutive days. The only requirement is that you keep track of all the media you consume from the time you wake up until the time you go to sleep for five days. Your media diary will consist of a log of the type of media you consume and a reflection on your media habits.

SEE MEDIA DIARY HANDOUT FOR MORE DETAILS

- *TV Reflection Essays (50 points)*

There will be two TV Reflection Essays due – one at the end of each season of assigned TV. The essays will need to include a short summary of the season and your reaction to it, but you will also need to reflect on how each show reinforces and/or critiques the cultural schemas of work and love we learn about in the assigned readings.

SEE TV REFLECTION ESSAYS HANDOUT FOR MORE DETAILS

- *Exams (150 points)*

There will be two exams in this course. Exams will be given in person during class on Week 9 and Week 15. Each exam will take two full class periods to complete. On day one (Monday) you will answer 4-6 short answer questions and on day two (Wednesday) you will answer 1-2 essay questions. Exams will be handwritten in class, but you are allowed to bring one page (front and back) of notes, which can be either handwritten or typed.

- *Sociological TV Review (150 points)*

For your final paper, you will write a sociologically informed review of a season of television of your choosing that we did *not* watch in class. The paper will need to be at least 7 double-spaced pages and apply sociological concepts to critically examine the show. You will also get points on this assignment for submitting an outline of your paper and there will be two paper workshops where you will get feedback on your paper from Dr. Frost and your classmates.

SEE FINAL PAPER HANDOUT FOR MORE DETAILS

COURSE SCHEDULE

Section 1: The Sociology of Culture

Week 1: What is Culture? Aug. 21-25

- To read:*
1. Lyn Spillman. "What is Cultural Sociology?"
 2. David Grazian. "The Social Organization of Popular Culture"

Week 2: How Culture Works Aug. 28-Sept. 1

- To read:*
1. Ann Swidler. "Finding Culture"
 2. Ann Swidler. "Repertoires"
 2. Michael Schudson. "How Culture Works: Perspectives from Media Studies on the Efficacy of Symbols"

Week 3: Cultural Change Sept 4-8

- To read:*
1. Kevin Kiley and Stephen Vaisey. "Measuring Stability and Change in Personal Culture Using Panel Data"
 2. Bartosz Zerebecki, Suzanna Oprea, Joep Hofhuis and Susanne Janssen. "Can TV Shows Promote Acceptance of Sexual and Ethnic Minorities?"

Reminder: No Class September 4 for Labor Day

Week 4: Television Cultures Sept. 11-15

- To read:*
1. David Arditi. "Streaming TV: The Golden Age of TV and Flow Interrupted"
 2. Nele Simons. "TV Drama as a Social Experience"
 3. George Winslow. "TV Viewing Shrinks Among Gen Z"

Due: Media Diaries are due on Brightspace by 11:59 pm on Sept. 12th

Section 2: Following Your Passion at Work

Week 5: The Changing Cultures of Work ***Sept. 18-22***

- To read:*
1. Arne Kalleberg. "Precarious Work, Insecure Workers: Employment Relations in Transition"
 2. Alexandra Ravenelle. "Hustle and Gig: Struggling and Surviving in the Sharing Economy"
 3. David Ardit. "The Exploitation of Hollywood's Writers is Just Another Symptom of Digital Feudalism."

To watch: *Abbott Elementary*, Episodes 1-3

Week 6: The Trouble with Passion ***Sept. 25-29***

- To read:*
1. Erin Cech. "The Trouble With Passion: How Searching for Fulfillment at Work Fosters Inequality"
 2. Simone Stolzoff. "Please Don't Call My Job A Calling"

To watch: *Abbott Elementary*, Episodes 4-6

Week 7: How Culture Shapes Where We Work ***Oct. 2-6***

- To read:*
1. Erin Cech. "The Self-Expressive Edge of Occupational Sex Segregation"
 2. Lauren Rivera. "Hiring as Cultural Matching"

To watch: *Abbott Elementary*, Episodes 7-9

Week 8: Emotional Labor ***Oct. 9-13***

- To read:*
1. Arlie Hochschild. "Exploring the Managed Heart"
 2. Luke Stark. "Recognizing the Role of Emotional Labor in the On-Demand Economy"

To watch: *Abbott Elementary*, Episodes 10-13

Due: *Abbot Elementary* Reflection Essays are due on Brightspace by 11:59 p.m. on Oct. 13th

Reminder: No Class October 9 for October Break

Week 9: Exam 1 Oct. 16-20

Due: Exam 1 will be in person during class on Oct. 16th and 18th

Section 3: Finding Meaning in Relationships

Week 10: The Changing Cultures of Love Oct. 23-27

To read:

1. Ann Swidler. "Love and Marriage"
2. Kathleen Hull, Ann Meier, and Timothy Ortyl. "The Changing Landscape of Love and Marriage."
3. Ashley Kranjac and Robert Wagmiller. "Attitudinal Change, Cohort Replacement, and the Liberalization of Attitudes about Same-sex Relationships."

To watch: *New Girl* Episodes 1-3

Week 11: Romance as Commodity Oct. 30-Nov. 3

To read:

1. Eva Illouz. "Introduction to the Sociology of Love"
2. Eva Illouz. "Constructing the Romantic Utopia"

To watch: *New Girl*, Episodes 4-6

Week 12: Dating Apps and Hookup Culture Nov. 6-10

To read:

1. Rachel Allison and Barbara Risman. "Race, Class, and Residence in College Student Negotiations of Hooking Up"
2. Jennifer Hicke Lundquist and Celeste Vaughan Curington. "Love Me Tinder, Love Me Sweet: Reshaping the College Hookup Culture."

To watch: *New Girl*, Episodes 7-9

Week 13: Friendship Cultures Nov. 13-17

To read: 1. Stacey Oliner. "The Modernization of Friendship"
2. Daniel Cox. "The State of American Friendship"

To watch: *New Girl*, Episodes 10-13

Due: *New Girl* Reflection Essays due on Brightspace by 11:59 p.m. on Nov. 17th

Week 14: THANKSGIVING BREAK Nov. 20-24

No class this week!

Week 15: Exam 2 Nov. 27-Dec. 1

Due: Exam 2 will be in person during class on Nov. 27th and 29th

Due: Paper Outlines due by 11:59 pm on Dec. 1st

Week 16: Paper Workshops Dec. 4-8

Due: Paper Workshops in class on December 4th and 6th

Week 17: Final Paper (Finals Week) Dec. 11-15

Due: Sociological TV Reviews are due on Brightspace by 11:59 pm on December 13th

**** Final grades will be submitted at 5 p.m. on December 15th. This is the last day you will be able to discuss your final grade with Dr. Frost. Please keep track of your grade throughout the course so you are not caught off guard by your final grade at the end. Final grades cannot be changed after December 15th ****

University Rules and Resources

Purdue Nondiscrimination Policy Statement

Purdue University is committed to maintaining a community which recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity. The University believes that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life. A hyperlink to Purdue's full Nondiscrimination Policy Statement is included in our course Brightspace under University Policies.

Academic Integrity

Purdue prohibits "dishonesty in connection with any University activity. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are examples of dishonesty" (Part 5, Section III-B-2-a, Student Regulations). Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest" (University Senate Document 72-18, December 15, 1972). A hyperlink to Purdue's full Academic Integrity policy, included more details on what constitutes academic dishonesty, is included in our course Brightspace under University Policies.

Incidents of academic misconduct in this course will be addressed by Dr. Frost and referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) for review at the university level. Any violation of course policies as it relates to academic integrity will result minimally in a failing or zero grade for that particular assignment, and at the instructor's discretion may result in a failing grade for the course. In addition, all incidents of academic misconduct will be forwarded to OSRR, where university penalties, including removal from the university, may be considered. **Students who use AI-generated writing for any portion of their assignments will be deemed in violation of the academic integrity expectations for this course.**

Disability Resource Center

Please notify Dr. Frost in the first week of classes if you need any accommodations or if we will need to work with the Disability Resource Center to ensure your success in the course. I will do everything I can to make sufficient accommodations for anyone who needs them. You may also contact the Disability Resource Center to arrange a confidential discussion at 765-494-1247 or drc@purdue.edu.

Basic Needs Security

Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. There is no appointment needed and Student Support Services is available to serve students 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Students may submit requests for emergency assistance from the [Critical Need Fund](#).

Emergency Preparation

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control. Relevant changes to this course will be posted onto the course website or can be obtained by contacting Dr. Frost. You are expected to read your @purdue.edu email and check our Brightspace site on a frequent basis.

Mental Health and Wellness

If you find yourself beginning to feel some stress, anxiety and/or feeling slightly overwhelmed, try [WellTrack](#). Sign in and find information and tools at your fingertips, available to you at any time. If you need support and information about options and resources, please contact or see the [Office of the Dean of Students](#). Call 765-494-1747. Hours of operation are M-F, 8 am- 5 pm. If you find yourself struggling to find a healthy balance between academics, social life, stress, etc., sign up for free one-on-one virtual or in-person sessions with a [Purdue Wellness Coach at RecWell](#). Student coaches can help you navigate through barriers and challenges toward your goals throughout the semester. Sign up is free and can be done on BoilerConnect. Purdue University is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students. For help, such individuals should contact [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) at 765-494-6995 during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or by going to the CAPS office on the second floor of the Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH) during business hours.

Incompletes

According to the [Grades and Grade Reports](#) section of Academic Regulations, "A grade of incomplete (I) is a record of work that was interrupted by unavoidable absence or other causes beyond a student's control..." Further details on these circumstances and the process for assigning types of incompletes are outlined in the regulations. Please contact me as soon as you think an incomplete might be needed in this course and before final course grades are due.