Kill your Television. TV is furniture, film and theatre are art. Yet, television is a popular form of entertainment with writing, performance, and production values that can rival the so-called "higher" arts. When television began, it brought programming into the home on 8-in black-and-white tv sets. Today, television travels on personal devices smaller than those early tv sets.

In this seminar, we will take a walk through the history of US television, examining each topic within its cultural context. The story of US television is one of technology and social movements. Television formats develop and change; some are sustained over decades.

Screenings: US television programs are vast in number. The seminar will not have outside screenings. We will show clips from programs in class. Seminar students are invited, on their own, to seek out tv shows via the internet and streaming services. With the "personal television history" that we each bring to the course, each topic will evoke memories for many of us.

As we go through the course, I invite seminar students to consider their own "personal television history" – when did tv come into your home; was it a 'window on the world'; did it separate and/or bring the family together; did you do homework with the tv on; what shows appealed to you; what events did tv make possible for you to share; did you learn about gender race and ethnicity from tv; about global politics and culture; and any other ideas that you may have. I am interested in hearing your "personal television histories" but only if you want to share.

**Week 1: TV and Entertainment Arts, Window on the World**

Radio – War of the Worlds
Vaudeo – Milton Berle, Sid Caesar
Ethnic warmedy – I Remember Mama
Slapstick performance - I Love Lucy
Window on the World – Jackie Kennedy Tour of White House


**Week 2:** **TV in the Home and the Home on TV**

TV set design & gendered dystopia
Domestic family comedy
Fantastic family comedy


**Week 3:** **Experimental TV & Anthology Drama to Series TV**

New York to Los Angeles

Anthology drama – New York City
Experimental tv – Ernie Kovacs, Nam Jun Paik
Electronic Elsewhere – Twilight Zone, Outer Limits


**Week 4:** **Vast Wasteland & Violence**

Quiz Show Scandal
The Untouchables
Violence & TV Ratings


**Week 5:** **Cable TV, Quality TV, R-Rated TV, Showrunner as Auteur**

Subscription TV to Cable TV
Quality drama and comedy – MTM productions
R-Rated TV – NYPD Blue


**Week 6:** **Unruly Women**

Emma Peel, Roseanne, Murphy Brown, Maude
Stand-Up Women – Tina Fey, Wanda Sykes, and more


**Week 7:** **Primetime Soaps – then and now**

Dynasty, Dallas, Mad Men, This is Us, etc.


**Week 8:** **Relevance TV & Geo-Politics**

Smothers Brothers
HBO Late Night Comedy
I Spy
Mod Squad


**Week 9: Vast Narrative, World-Building & Invested Viewing**

Examples: Lost (the primogenitor), Westworld, Battlestar Galactica, Watchman, Walking Dead, Star Trek: Discovery, Picard, Penny Dreadful, Money Heist, and on


**Week 10: Crime Drama & Procedural Logic**

Examples: The Wire, CSI, Law & Order, Vera, Inspector Morse, Endeavor, and more

