

Veranstalter.....	Jasmin Humburg
Thema.....	From Dexter to Nurse Jackie: New American (Anti)Heroes on Television
Art der Veranstaltung.....	Seminar 1b
Veranstaltungsnummer.....	53-560
Zeit.....	2st., Mo 12-14 Uhr
Raum.....	Phil 1219
Beginn.....	7.4.2014

Description:

The heroic figure takes many different forms in U.S. American culture and has a long tradition of epitomizing prowess, benevolence, courage as well as strength. The hero has thus traditionally occupied a privileged position in the national consciousness. Yet, television audiences find themselves in the middle of a different reign these days: The Era of the *Antihero*. It seems impossible to ignore the amount of complex protagonists and the appeal they have with millions of viewers each week. But what is it that turns those conflicted characters into likeable rogues?

This course will delve into the heroic ideal and its perpetuation/subversion in fictional U.S. television programs of the 2000's. We will explore the various dimensions of hero and antihero archetypes by means of scrutinizing shows like *Dexter*, *Breaking Bad*, *Homeland* and *Nurse Jackie*. In order to analyze the construction of heroes/antiheroes and heroines/antiheroines, the course combines theoretical texts with close 'readings' of television shows, always working on the assumption that television is a complex cultural form. We will consider issues of characterization, narrative, perspective, structure and style while raising questions such as: What makes television characters effective? How can antiheroic figures be read in their socio-cultural contexts? What role does gender play? Students are expected to develop the academic skills necessary for analyzing televisual texts as well as the nexus between television and culture in a variety of ways.

Course Requirements:

- regular attendance and active participation as well as thorough preparation of reading assignments
- collaboration in a group assignment
- two written responses
- final term paper of 8 to 12 pages

NOTE: There will be three mandatory screenings outside of class, taking place on May 8th, May 22nd and June 19th at 6 – 8 p.m. Please plan accordingly.

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	
Sprechstunden während der Semesterferien:	