Ever wondered why TV shows have changed the way we emotionally and morally engage with characters, their stories and the socio-cultural values these ‘celebrities’ stand for? Closely explore the psychology, storytelling, cultural mythology and star values of the ‘home screen’ heroes and villains we all worship and revile.

As opposed to watching a two-hour movie, we instead consume episode after episode of shows such as Sopranos, Lost, 24, Game of Thrones, House of Cards, Breaking Bad, Line of Duty, Broadchurch, Downtown Abbey and many more. By doing so, we invite these TV heroes and villains into our own home, evening after evening, for hours on end, eventually ‘knowing them’ as well as (if not better than) our own family and friends, which raises a series of interesting questions.

Why are we so emotionally engaged and culturally invested in television characters, loving and hating their actions and decisions? Why and how do we attribute a ‘celebrity’ status to these characters, as they live on in-between and beyond each episode and season? Which kind of cultural values do these figures represent, and in what way do they help us to make sense of other figures and ourselves? What impact does television have as the new form of ‘global literature’ to which everyone can refer to and explore together in person or online, giving us the means to express any aspect of ourselves and the societies we belong to?

The key concepts of television production will be explored, including the psychology of characterisation and narrative structure, and the impact of cultural mythology, star personas and close analysis of casting, costuming, performance, set design, cinematography and editing of your favourite shows.

Suggested reading

Patrick Phillips, Understanding Film Texts: Meaning and Experience (BFI 2000), ‘Story’ and ‘Character’ Chapters.

Additional information

- Suitable for beginners, intermediates, advanced
- This short introductory course allows you to spend time exploring a subject for interest, among like-minded people, without formal assessment
- There will be opportunities during the morning for discussion and contributions.
**Intended learning outcomes**

- To understand how identities are constructed and contested through engagements with culture
- To understand how people engage with cultural texts and practices

**About the tutor**

Caleb completed his PhD in Film at the University of Kent in 2016, where he also studied for and achieved a BA and MA in Film Studies. His research area is the cultural value of spectacle in contemporary Hollywood Blockbusters, specialising in superhero movies. He teaches undergraduate modules such as the Hollywood Studio System, Introduction to Film Theory, Film Form, Digital Domains, Animated Worlds, Costume and Fashion, as well as Critical Perspectives of Television Production.
How to book a place
These courses are usually very popular so you are advised to apply as soon as possible. Places cannot be held without payment of the course fee.

- **Online Booking is preferred.** Please visit [www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge](http://www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge)
- **By post** to us at the address below, using the application form in the programme booklet. Please note that you will not receive an acknowledgment of your paper application; your payment will usually be processed when the course becomes financially viable, otherwise we will notify you of cancellation approximately seven days prior to the course. A paper application affirms acceptance of our terms & conditions.

Course cancellation
As these short courses are self-financing, each course can only proceed if there are sufficient enrolments. Therefore, if a course is cancelled due to insufficient enrolments we aim to notify applicants approximately one week before the course start date; if there is no suitable alternative course, we will refund the appropriate course fee in full. The University of Kent reserves the right to cancel a course for this or any other reason in which case the relevant course fee will be refunded in full.

If you find it necessary to cancel your place on a course, please let us know as soon as possible. Refund requests, including the reason, should be made by email or in writing to us at the address below. We reserve the right to retain all or part of the course fee if you request a refund after 14 days of your online booking being made or paper application being received. Discretionary, partial refunds may be made, after the deduction of an administrative handling fee as follows:

- a course fee of up to and including £42 will incur an administrative handling fee of £10.00
- a course fee of £43 and over will incur an administrative handling fee of £12.50.

The University reserves the right to:

a) exclude any student if the student's presence is making it difficult for the class to function properly
b) cancel or amend the length of any course if the circumstances so warrant.

Neither the University of Kent, nor its staff, can be held responsible for any damage, loss or injury, however sustained, suffered by participants attending courses. Insurance is the student’s responsibility.

University Centre Tonbridge
For details of our other courses, news, events and location visit [www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge](http://www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge).

- Parking. There is plenty of public pay and display car parking locally, but please note that only selected car parks permit parking in excess of four hours; detailed information is available from [www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk). No parking is available here on site.
- Refreshments are not provided; food and drink can be purchased from any of the nearby café outlets - we are closely situated to the High Street and town centre. A hot drink vending machine is usually available on the ground floor of this building.

Mailing List and data protection
Those attending our courses are automatically added to our database and kept informed about new courses. This information is not released to outside organisations. Please write to us if you do not wish your details to be kept on our database.

Please contact us if you have any queries or would like to register your email address to receive our course information updates. We look forward to welcoming you here soon.

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