

## English 102 Course Description

This course will explore how the effects of the media, particularly those of television, have altered social lifestyles in American culture. With the explosion of media technologies such as television, the internet, TiVO, DVDs, and etc., many Americans have access to more varieties of entertainment than they have time to fully absorb. If such technologies occupy such a prominent role in the lives of most Americans, what are their direct effects on how the average modern American forms knowledge and on how this technologically-mediated knowledge alters the relationship between individuals and the public space? To answer these questions, we shall research specific nodes of inquiry, including television's influence on how people perceive politicians and politics, its impact on the consolidation (and fragmentation) of religious commitments, its contribution to "democratization" and to a general paranoia of intellectual/print culture, its blurring of the line between information and entertainment in news broadcasts, its consequences in the realm of education, and its apparent effacement of the epistemological and social conditions of print culture.