I. Course, Title, Number and Credit: Television Criticism, Brc 450, 3 hrs

II. Course Description: TV Criticism is the study of the methods and techniques used by television and cinema for the entertainment and persuasion of an audience through the use of the different genres of video and film. Critical evaluation methods will be applied to the techniques used in the planning and production of visual media. During the semester, students will study long and short form media presentation and apply various methods of critical analysis.

III. Prerequisites: Upper division status

IV. Course Objectives:

1. To provide students with a fuller understanding of the impact of television and film on contemporary society.
2. To provide students with tools to understand the process of message design in visual media.
3. To provide students with the ability to apply critical methods to determine message content of television programming.
4. To provide students with an appreciation of the creative process necessary to develop and execute thematic ideas visually.

V. Method of Instruction: Lecture, discussion, demonstration, and viewing assignments. Video and film on video will be used extensively during the semester.

VI. Means of Evaluation: One or two examinations, critical papers and presentations, and a group project.

VII. Method of Evaluation: Exams and critical papers will make up 50% of your grade, class presentations will be 15%, group project 20%, class participation 15%

NOTE: Before I finalize this distribution of grades, I reserve the opportunity to negotiate with the class to develop assignments most appropriate to the class interests.

VIII. Required Texts:
*Critical Approaches to Television*, Vande Berg, Wenner, Gronbeck (Houghton Mifflin)
The Runaway Jury*, John Grisham (Island Books, Dell Publishing) (novel)
The Minority Report* from the Collected Stories of Philip K. Dick**

** We may or may not use this short story as an assignment; I have not made a final decision.
IX. Attendance: Regular attendance is expected for this class. Students missing more than 2 classes may be penalized by having your overall grade in the class lowered. The discretion as to whether to exercise this option shall remain solely with the instructor. Frequent tardiness may also affect overall grade.

X. Class discussion: One of the things that makes a class like this work well is to have members of the class discuss critical methods in relationship to current television that the class members watch. Most texts refer to television that was previously on television or has been viewed for several seasons. (It takes several years to get academic articles published, discussed and then included in text books.) One of my goals this semester is to have you pick television drama that you find compelling and then let you find a critical voice and a methodology that provides you with a basis for discussing it with the class. During the semester, I hope we will find a compelling way to accomplish this goal.

XI. Group project: The group will have to decide on a project that meets the criteria defined for the class. The group can choose to one of these projects:

1. The group will produce (within the class) part of an episode of a new comedy, drama, reality or game show. The show segment must be at least 15 minutes in length. The group will have to find the necessary talent from outside the class to produce the episode.

2. The group will produce a video project shot and assembled utilizing techniques discussed in class to create ethos, pathos and context.

XII. Exams will either be in-class or take home essays.