

**Roy H. Park School of Communications  
Ithaca College  
Ithaca, NY 14850**

COURSE SYLLABUS

**GCOM 29707-01: The Legacy of Rod Serling -- The life and work of  
one of the most prolific TV writers      F 2009      1 cr.**

W 9/30/09: 6:00 - 10:00 pm; TH 10/1/09: 6:00-10:00 pm

*(Students enrolled in the course will also be required to attend 4 ½ hours  
of the **ROD SERLING CONFERENCE** -- being held on campus 10/2-3)\**

**Instructor:** Gordon C. Webb

**Phone:** 910-685-6600

Ass't Prof. - TV/Radio (retired)    **E-mail:** [webb@ithaca.edu](mailto:webb@ithaca.edu)

**Course website:** [www.webbonline.info/serling.html](http://www.webbonline.info/serling.html)

**Rod Serling Conference Website:** [www.ithaca.edu/rhp/serling](http://www.ithaca.edu/rhp/serling)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Explores the life and work of one of the most honored writers in television. Rod Serling was a key player in the "Golden Age of Television" (1950's), creator of "The Twilight Zone" and "Night Gallery," and author of many screenplays ("Planet of the Apes," and "Seven days in May"). Serling's profound influence on American television will be explored, including his struggles over censorship and sponsor control. Winner of six Emmy awards and numerous other accolades, he taught creative writing at I-C in the late 1960's and early 1970's. 1 credit. (F)

**COURSE INFORMATION:**

This two-day course will feature lively group discussions of Serling's role in American television of the 1950, 60's and 70's. Students will be exposed to this writer's career through extensive screenings from his "Twilight Zone" series... as well as rarely-seen examples of Serling's other work. Special emphasis will be placed on how one of television's most prolific and honored writers was also one of medium's most vocal critics.

The instructor has lectured on Serling's work while an assistant professor at Ithaca College... at the college's study center in London... and most recently, at the University of North Carolina/Wilmington. His research on Rod Serling has been published in "Creative Screenwriting" journal:

<http://www.rodserling.com/pota.htm>

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\* Students enrolled in this course will be admitted to all events at [THE 2009 ROD SERLING CONFERENCE](#) at I-C (10/2-3) at no charge (except meals and the banquet).

## **READING:**

The following book is recommended (but not required) as a basic resource on Rod Serling and his work:

Zicree, Marc Scott. THE TWILIGHT ZONE COMPANION -- first OR second edition (Silman-James Press, Los Angeles), 1982 & 1989

Other reading material -- articles, websites and books -- will be placed ON RESERVE (and ELECTRONIC RESERVE) at the Library for student use prior to and during the semester.

## **GRADING:**

- Attendance	40%
- In-class work	10%
- Paper(s)	<u>50%</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

**NOTE:** due to the short duration of this course, each class meeting is extremely important. Students expecting to receive credit must attend both the Wednesday (9/30) and Thursday (10/10 sessions).

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

SPECIAL SERVICES: Special services are available to students with disabilities. These services are confidential, but to access them you must: (1) register and (2) request an Accommodation Plan with the Affirmative Action Officer and the Coordinator of Academic Support for students with disabilities.

PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism is defined as "the unacknowledged use of someone else's published or unpublished ideas, whether this use consists of directly quoted material or paraphrased ideas." Further, "whether intended or not, plagiarism is a serious offense against academic honesty. Under any circumstances, it is deceitful to represent as one's own work writing or ideas that belong to another person."

"In a collaborative project, all students in the group may be held accountable for academic misconduct if they engage in plagiarism or are aware of plagiarism by others in their group and fail to report it. Students who participate in a collaborative project in which plagiarism has occurred will not be held accountable if they were not knowledgeable of the plagiarism."<sup>1</sup>

There are specific aspects of copyright law which relate to electronic media which will be covered in this course. Students are expected to understand and follow these rules, and will be held to strict standards of professional conduct as it relates to their projects for this course.

SAFETY: You must respond to and report conditions and actions that may jeopardize your safety, or that of other people and/or equipment, to the responsible College employee. During class sessions that person would be your instructor or lab assistant. Outside of class the person might be your instructor, lab supervisors, co-curricular managers, equipment and facilities managers, or engineering support staff. You must be aware that misuse of equipment can create the risk of serious injury, infectious contamination, and expensive damage. Using facilities unsupervised puts you at risk. Failure to be alert to safety problems, or to report them, may have serious consequences for you or others.

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<sup>1</sup> **STUDENT CONDUCT CODE OF ITHACA COLLEGE**

<http://www.ithaca.edu/faculty/rlesses/academic%20honesty%20statement.html>