

## **Societal Issues in Soap Operas**

In this course we will study how soap operas from diverse countries reflect their own cultural and societal mores through the portrayal of personal relationships, family life, public health messages, prejudices, violence prevention, and emotional, political, sexual and moral conflicts. We will discuss whether or not soap opera characteristics are universal and whether they are a catalyst for social change.

During session 1, we will discuss the general characteristics of soap operas and their importance as the ultimate twentieth-century mass media form. We will examine the transition from traditional literary drama and novel genres popularized in serial form in nineteenth-century novels and newspapers to modern-day soap operas.

Prior to sessions 2 to 5, participants will be asked to view an assigned YouTube presentation of a soap opera to be discussed at the following class meeting. Each YouTube assignment will feature a soap opera from a different country. For session 6 participants will be asked to prepare and present their own synopsis of a soap opera based on input provided by the class leader.

**Leader:** Cecilia Rosenblum, born and educated in Bogota, Colombia, worked at ETS developing tests in English, Spanish, and French.

**Fridays:** 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 6 weeks: September 27 through November 8 (no class on 10/18)

**Location:** Monument Hall, Maximum 15 seats