

# Global TV?

## 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Semiotics of “GLOBAL” TV Stories

GLOBAL TELEVISION has recently taken off like a rocket ... or a Zipline drone. With the explosive rise of Netflix and many other streaming services around the world, there is now a wide range of high-quality TV programs being produced and consumed in different nations (or co-produced **between** different nations). This has meant that new types of programs across different cultures, languages, locations, actors, concepts, and narrative approaches are engaging audiences and challenging them to ask the following questions:

- A. What *is* good cross-cultural TV entertainment?**
- B. Has a new “global” TV emerged which now displaces any one individual nation’s dominance or set of cultural values?**

Important questions for the future of nearly all entertainment. Here's your chance to help tackle them.

For this assignment, you’ll need to watch the **FIRST EPISODE from 3 out of the 4 shows below** with a careful eye on **2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> level semiotics and production techniques**. Yes, that means using the same kinds of tactics we’ve applied to still photos in class to the streaming TV artistry and implied cultural agendas.

***Money Heist* (Spain), *Made in Heaven* (India), *The Law According to Lydia Poet* (Italy), *Lupin* (France)**

**No plot summaries. Don’t do it. Instead,** focus on **(A)** what stands out in terms of unique or interesting semiotic and cross-cultural codes in these TV narratives which makes them different from typical “American” shows; and **(B)** the two questions above by looking at the following criteria:

1. What are the interesting production tactics related to **camera work and editing**?
2. **Characters** and **acting** performances?
3. **Story lines? Plots? Settings/Locations?**
4. Use of **language** and **dialogue**?
5. Notions of the **heroic** and **valiant** or the **villainous** and **criminal**?

For additional extra-credit you may include a fourth show from the list below. All of these shows are largely in English.

### Co-Produced or Cross-Language Productions

**The Diplomat** (British/US)  
**Bodyguard** (British)  
**The Tunnel** (English/French)  
**Mystery Road** (Aussie)  
**Transatlantic** (Norwegian/US)  
**Royal Flying Doctors Service** (Aussie)  
Or one other **non-U.S.** TV program of your choosing

**Due Date:** On or before the final exam date chosen for us: **May 7<sup>th</sup> 1:30pm**

**Length:** Roughly 2-3 pages single spaced.