

# Global TV?

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

GLOBAL TELEVISION markets have recently taken off like a rocket. With the explosive rise of Netflix, Canal+, BBC, BritBox, AmazonPrime, Globo (Brazil), Disney/HBO, 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 qualifies as high QUALITY cross-cultural and GLOBAL TV entertainment?**
- B. Has a new “global” TV emerged which now displaces any one individual nation’s dominance or set of cultural values?**
- C. Have new programs not only changed what we watch, but perhaps how we watch as well as what we EXPECT from film-TV-video stories?**

All of these are critical questions for the future of nearly all global entertainment in the coming years. And here's your chance to help tackle them and weigh-in on some answers.

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.

Here are the TV shows/series to choose from:

**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)** how the following “technical” criteria are at work in crucial scenes.

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 Tunnel** (English/French)

**Mystery Road** (Aussie)

**Transatlantic** (Norwegian/US)

**Royal Flying Doctors Service** (Aussie)

**Bodyguard** (British)

Or one other **non-U.S.** TV program of your choosing

**Due Date:** Class time on Thursday **March 26<sup>th</sup>** **Length:** Roughly 2-3 pages single spaced.