

Lost: more than a primetime show

Contributed by Emily Roeder - Staff Writer
Friday, 03 April 2009

As far as shows that draw in avidly loyal viewership, "Lost" is among one of the most notable. Notorious for its cliffhanger endings, flashbacks, "flashforwards," and character names linked modern philosophers, "Lost" keeps people coming back for more as viewers try desperately to make sense of the bizarre happenings.

Every Wednesday at 8 p.m. central, tens of millions of people across the country tune in to ABC to learn more on the fate of the survivors of Oceanic Air Flight 815. Most viewers have been following the show since season one. Now on its fifth season, the story has become very complex that it would be difficult to join in without being confused.

Senior, Emily Kopp, is one such fan who has seen all 96 episodes aired thus far.

"In general part of the show's appeal is the addicting factor," Kopp explained. "One, you ask yourself what it was you just watched for an hour. And two, you can't wait a week to see what's going to happen."

As for theories on where the show is going, Kopp is at a loss.

"You never know what's going to happen, especially now that we know the island can change times. Everything and anything can happen on a mysterious island."

Many have theories, including BC's own Dr. Lloyd Newton, professor of Philosophy.

So intrigued is Newton by the show and its allusion to modern political philosophy that he is set to offer a course on the topic called "Lost-n-Political Philosophy";

The course will be offered on campus during the second session of classes this summer and will satisfy one of the general education requirements for philosophy. Any student on campus who has taken a philosophy course and watches "Lost" may find some of the character names familiar.

Newton pointed out a few being John Locke, Rousseau, C.S. Lewis and Desmond David Hume.

Newton's class will cover the various philosophers whose names are found in the show. He is intrigued that the show contains so many references to various books and philosophies.

"There are at least fifty books that have been mentioned in some form or other on the show, such as the Bible, Brothers Karamazov, Catch-22, Through the Looking Glass, Harry Potter, A Tale of Two Cities, the Odyssey, Moby Dick, and, Lord of the Flies." Newton was introduced to the show last summer and now calls himself a "Lost-junkie";

However, this class isn't limited only to those who have watched the show. Newton says the course is for any student who wants to learn more about the show and the various philosophers whom the characters are named after. "Of course, it is not imperative that you have seen the show before to take the course," Newton explained.

"And for my fellow "Lost" fans, you will undoubtedly enjoy watching the episodes again and discussing the philosophical implications and ramifications of the show."

The professor also has some theories of his own, which include a final war on the island, paralleling "The Battle of The Books." This term describes a time in the 1600s when it was disputed whether modern or classical philosophy was the superior reason and way to think.

Though some theory books about "Lost" have been written, Newton pointed out that none of them have been books that looked at the show in a political light. He is considering writing such a book.

Newton encourages students to take the class. "You get to appreciate good entertainment and get a "generated." out of the way," he said.

By taking this course, Newton says it may help people have an idea of where the show is going during its final season.