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Teaching Contemporary British Broadcasting

Unrated

Rachel Viney

Series: Teaching Film and Media Studies

ISBN# 1844570363

Publisher - , 2004 92 pages, Paperback Price at time of review - £19.99

Teaching Contemporary British Broadcasting by Rachel Viney is the latest book in the British Film Institute's series Teaching Film and Media Studies and is aimed at teachers who are new to teaching Media Studies as a subject, specifically at AS and A2 level. The author, Rachel Viney, is a broadcasting industry insider; she clearly knows her field and what will be useful to teachers in the classroom.

Teaching Contemporary British Broadcasting is an ideal place to start learning how to teach British Broadcasting, it has all the background information on television and radio a teacher needs: e.g. programme trends, the Hutton report, funding/revenue, audiences etc; and case studies on: 'Public Service Broadcasting', 'Television Technology' and 'Radio'. It offers an overview of significant trends, events and major developments since the start of British broadcasting. All this is linked to the Post 16 examination specifications; couple this with the useful glossary and advice on further reading in books, articles, reports and websites at the back of the book and it becomes your bible for teaching television and radio.

Viney's book is easy to read and navigate through and is packed full of excellent information and advice for teachers who can find additional linked online materials such as worksheets, teaching notes and websites. This is so straightforward that it would also be very valuable for teaching GCSE Media Studies.

Viney's style of writing makes this a good read too - unusual for a text book - I found myself absorbed in reports, facts and figures (that under the control of another author could have been rather dry.) Viney is to be congratulated upon presenting this in clear, straightforward, thorough and interesting explanations.

The only downside to this book is the one to which all media text books are prone and that is that some of the information will go quickly out of date; though by using cited sources for facts and figures teachers will easily be able to update them. The background information to British broadcasting will of course always be relevant.

I would urge all English and Media departments to buy this as a 'must have' reference item for the office, and all teachers who teach television and radio to media students at post 16 level, but also at GCSE, to buy a copy for themselves so they can annotate and stick in up to date data. £20 well spent I say!

Gill Clayton