

## TELEVISION STUDIES – OCW UC3M

### Topic I. Television, Culture and Society

#### Exercise of week 1 of the topic:

The terms “trash TV”, “coach potato” and “idiot box” are used very often to refer to television and its viewers, being examples of the negative ideas associated to the medium. If you go to Google Images, it is very easy to find hundreds of pictures representing these concepts. To fulfill the exercises, find one picture depicting the terms “trash TV”, “coach potato” and “idiot box” and comment the context in which is used after visiting the website. Which of the traditional negative views about television is the picture depicting?

#### Exercise of week 2 of the topic:

Cinema has a long tradition of representing TV as a negative, destructive or disruptive force, even before TV sets were commercialized, as *Murder by Television* (1935). Watch a more recent movie from the following list to locate and comment in a short essay how television is represented.

- *Network* (1976), a satire about a TV anchor gone mad.
- *Videodrome* (1983), a science-fiction horror film about a mysterious TV signal.
- *Poltergeist* (1982), a horror film about a haunted house.
- *Soapdish* (1991), a comedy about a television soap opera.
- *Quiz Show* (1994), a historical drama about a television fraud.
- *The Truman Show* (1998), a comedy-drama about a man whose life is a reality-show.
- *The Insider* (1999), a drama about television news.
- *Series 7: The Contenders* (2001), a dark comedy about a survival reality-show.