

Annotation

The subject of this thesis is comparison of late night talk shows on major TV networks in the United States of America and Russian Federation. The focus of the research is in the extent hosts are willing to discuss political topics and joke about politics and how that correlates to political regimes in their respective countries, authoritarian (Russia) and democratic (United States). The first part of the thesis defines the necessary terminology pertaining to TV format and genre in the context of late night TV. One of the chapters covers forms and objects of political communication, analysis of the way messages are delivered, their content and influence on the recipient. Attention is paid to specific characteristics of political communication and the way they are realized in late night talk shows. Given the propensity of late night talk shows to discuss political issues in a light-hearted way, the thesis researches "entertainization" of political communications. The second part of the thesis provides qualitative and quantitative content analysis of the TV programs chosen as a subject of the research.. Last chapter contains results of that content analysis pertaining to primary characteristics of these programs.