Throughout the semester, I have watched the complete first season of the popular series, “Nip Tuck”. “Nip Tuck” is a drama that is set in Florida and shows the life of two plastic surgeons. These two surgeons operate their own plastic surgery center and throughout the show interact with a variety of patients on a variety of different issues. The first doctor, Sean McNamara, is an excellent surgeon who has problems with family issues that seem to have an effect on his job. Throughout the first season, he and his wife have been struggling to keep their relationship together, while the son seems to be in the middle of everything. Sean’s partner, Christian Troy, is one-hundred percent opposite of Dr. McNamara. Dr. Troy is addicted to sex and uses his sexual innuendo to bring in possible clients.

During the first season, Sean and Christian become involved with a Columbian drug lord. He is bringing patients over to their office to remove drugs from slaved women implants. Dr. McNamara’s marriage is unstable and he
has an affair with a client later in the season. On the other hand, his wife returns to school and has a miscarriage. Christian hears knowledge that he is the father of a baby. The mother is a white woman he met at a Sexaholics Anonymous meeting. In the end, the baby was African American and therefore is not his. In the finale, Sean and Christian are demanded to change the face of the drug lord, keeping him from being caught. They changed his face to that of one of the America’s Most Wanted and the FBI caught him. This is where season one ended and season two started.

After some research, I was able to conclude who the intended audience for this drama was. According to tvtome.com, “The plastic surgery program was the night's most watched cable program and is the top new series cable premiere of 2003.” It also stated that “Nip Tuck” was the “fifth most watched basic cable premiere in history.” The intended audience was from older teens to men and women less than fifty years old. Some of the content in “Nip Tuck” would have been unsuitable for children under the age of 18. There are several fan clubs of the series that one can write a reaction to and engage themselves in chat rooms.
After watching the first season, one of the theories that sticks out most to me is the Modeling Theory. The first part of this theory states that an individual encounters a form of action portrayed by a person in a media presentation. Dr. Troy has multiple sex partners during the season. I think that an individual who watches the show might witness this act and might want to be like Dr. Troy. The second part of the theory states that the individual identifies with the model; this is the viewer believes that he or she is like the model. I think many young male adults may think they are like Dr. Troy. The third part of the theory states that the individual remembers and reproduces the action of the model in some situation. Since Dr. Troy is portrayed as a stud after sleeping with his patients and employees, others might try to imitate this behavior. This explains step four: performing the reproduced activity solves some problem or results in some reward for the individual. Therefore, receiving positive reinforcement increases the probability that the person will use the reproduced behavior activity repeatedly as a means of responding to a similar situation in the future. I have heard my roommates and friends state that they wish they could be like Dr. Troy. I also heard
one of my friends state to the other, “you are the next Dr. Troy.”

The next theory that works best with the “Nip Tuck” series is the Social Expectations Theory. The series “Nip Tuck” shows several social activities and group life of a doctor. This is the first step in the theory. The next step is that the portrayals are representations of reality and reflect—accurately or poorly— the nature of many kinds of groups in American society. The show reflects the life of a doctor using several examples. The first example is the income level and what they do with their income. Dr. Troy has a love for cars and buys a Lamborghini. He also has a massive house and goes to several first class parties. The next step is that individuals who are exposed to these representations receive lessons in the nature of norms, roles, social ranking, and social controls that prevail within many kinds of common groups. People who watch this can understand the differences in social ranking and see similarities within roles of doctors. The fourth step is the experience of exposure to portrayals of a particular kind of group results in learning of behavior patterns that are expected by others when acting within such a group. If I wanted to be like Dr. Troy and Dr. McNamara, I would want to act high class, with my clothes,
People know that doctors have a lot of money and like to spend it. Therefore, these learned expectations concerning appropriate behavior for self and others serve as guides to action when individuals actually encounter or try to understand such groups in real life. After watching the season, I was able to understand the norms and social patterns of doctors. Although some of the social patterns were not all good natured, I was able to understand that this is how many doctors live their life.

After watching the first season, several ethical issues arise during the show. I think that after the first episode, there are several key ethical issues and I would like to discuss. The first episode features a patient who is a known child molester and comes to Dr. Troy and Dr. McNamara for a new face. After a bribe of 300,000 dollars, they decided to proceed with the surgery. The man who came in with the child molester happens to be the brother of the child molester. He kills his brother during the surgery by turning up the gas that keeps the patient unconscious. He killed his brother because he was a disgrace to the family and left the body to be disposed of by the doctors. Dr. Troy and McNamara decided to take the body to the swamp, cover it with ham, and dispose of it to alligators. This episode is full of ethical issues. The first one is
whether Dr. Troy and Dr. McNamara should perform the surgery knowing he is a child molester. I cannot believe that they would perform this surgery even with the large bribe. Why would anyone want to help a child molester avoid being caught? There is no amount of money that would make me help this person out. This draws attention to the power of a plastic surgeon and the power they have to physically change a person into a new person and whether or not it is the right thing to do.

The next ethical issue that Dr. Troy and Dr. McNamara run into is what they did with the body after he was pronounced dead. They did not feel comfortable turning in the brother because they did not want to be involved with helping a child molester become a free man. Instead, they disposed of the body themselves. This on top of doing the surgery to begin with is horrible. I showed the first episode to my parents and they were disgusted with the outcome of this entire situation and would not watch more.

Overall, I think this first episode brings to attention several ethical issues in the beginning of the season. After watching the first episode, one would probably decide whether to watch the rest of the season based on what they thought of the problems of the first episode.
After watching the first season of the hit series “Nip Tuck”, I am long awaiting the second season to come out on DVD so I can watch it too. One could talk about several ethical issues and apply several mass media communication theories to the series. Even though I have a hard time trying to watch every episode of a season, “Nip Tuck” has kept me glued to FX on Tuesday nights.