

FILM 006: DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING

Formerly known as:

RTV 015 (or if cross-listed - inactivated courses associated with this course)

Originator

amsimmons

Justification / Rationale

Approved hybrid modality.

Effective Term

Fall 2019

Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

Subject

FILM - Film

Course Number

006

Full Course Title

Documentary Filmmaking

Short Title

DOCUMENTARY

Discipline**Disciplines List**

Film Studies

Broadcasting Technology (Film making/video, media production, radio/TV)

Modality

Face-to-Face

Hybrid

Catalog Description

At a time when filmmaking is undergoing rapid change and new forms of documentary filmmaking are emerging across digital platforms, we seek to challenge and train a new generation of film documentarians to find innovative and socially responsible ways to create non-fiction film stories. The focus in this course is on: finding and telling the visual story, story development and focusing on the crucial third act climax/resolution, difficult enough in scripted films, far more elusive in documentaries. Students produce short form documentary films with the emphasis on developing the producer/director's craft through practice and repetition.

Schedule Description

In this hands-on class, students create concepts for, develop, produce shoot, edit and broadcast short documentary films.

Prerequisite: FILM 002A or RTV 010A

Lecture Units

2

Lecture Semester Hours

36

Lab Units

1

Lab Semester Hours

54

In-class Hours

90

Out-of-class Hours

72

Total Course Units

3

Total Semester Hours

162

Prerequisite Course(s)

FILM 002A or RTV 010A

Required Text and Other Instructional Materials**Resource Type**

Book

Author

Sheila Curran Bernard

Title

Documentary Storytelling: Creative Non-Fiction on Screen

Edition

4th

Publisher

Focal Press

Year

2015

College Level

Yes

ISBN #

0415843308

Class Size Maximum

24

Entrance Skills

Identify and demonstrate the elements of pre-production including scripting, scheduling, storyboarding and shot listing involved to successfully develop and prepare an original short film/video for production.

Prerequisite Course Objectives

FILM 002A-Identify and demonstrate the elements of pre-production including scripting, scheduling, storyboarding and shot listing involved to successfully develop and prepare an original short film/video for production.

Entrance Skills

Identify and demonstrate the elements of post-production including editing picture and sound, creating basic effects,color correction and titling and final mixing required to successfully edit, finish and deliver a short film/video.

Prerequisite Course Objectives

FILM 002A-Identify and demonstrate the elements of post-production including editing picture and sound, creating basic effects, color correction and titling and final mixing required to successfully edit, finish and deliver a short film/video.

Course Content

- What is a documentary film? How are documentary films the same as or different from narrative films in objective, subject and audience? What are the social, political, journalistic, cultural and entertainment purposes of documentary films? What are the the different types of documentary styles, historically, and how did they evolve into current forms.
- What is the documentary filmmaking process? How is this process the same as and / or different from the narrative filmmaking process? How does one choose a documentary film subject? How does one script a documentary film?
- What are the elements of a good documentary film interview? What is the "big" question to be addressed in the film and how does a documentary filmmaker choose the subjects to answer it?
- How does a documentary filmmaker "follow the story?" When is the documentary story finished?
- What is the business of documentary filmmaking? Who is the documentary film's audience and what are the distribution channels for reaching that audience? Where is documentary filmmaking going in relation to narrative filmmaking?

Lab Content

1. Story development: subject selection and the big question.
2. Scripting: selecting the style of documentary to be made and determine all coverage required including interviews, verite, b-roll, archival and other
3. Prep I: key equipment and proper use
4. Prep II: key role assignments and working collaboratively
5. Prep III: pre-interview and b-roll selection, location scouting
6. Production I: scheduling, shot list, clearances & rights acquisition
7. Production II: screening of footage
8. Post Production I: organization, sorting, analysis of coverage
9. Post Production II: editing and finishing film
10. Exhibition: public screening and other channels to audience

Course Objectives

	Objectives
Objective 1	Identify and demonstrate the elements and techniques required to
Objective 2	Identify the elements of documentary films to successfully analyze documentary film styles and forms.
Objective 3	Identify and demonstrate the techniques required to successfully develop and script a documentary film story.
Objective 4	Identify and demonstrate the techniques required to shoot interview and other coverage for a documentary story, then edit and complete a short documentary film.

Student Learning Outcomes

	Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be able to:
Outcome 1	Students will produce a short documentary film.
Outcome 2	Students will Identify and analyze documentary film styles and forms.
Outcome 3	Students will develop and script a documentary film story.
Outcome 4	Students will shoot interview and other coverage for a documentary story, then edit and complete a short documentary film.

Methods of Instruction

Method	Please provide a description or examples of how each instructional method will be used in this course.
Activity	
Collaborative/Team	
Demonstration, Repetition/Practice	
Discussion	
Laboratory	
Lecture	
Participation	

Other (Specify)	The ability to work as a team, independently, outside of the classroom and in.
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Methods of Evaluation

Method	Please provide a description or examples of how each evaluation method will be used in this course.	Type of Assignment
Laboratory projects	script, prep, shoot, edit, deliver short documentary films	In and Out of Class
Field/physical activity observations	prep and shoot short documentary films on location	In and Out of Class
Group activity participation/observation	work collaboratively in an assigned role as part of a documentary film production crew	In and Out of Class
Product/project development evaluation	step by step grading throughout five film production process	In Class Only
Self/peer assessment and portfolio evaluation		In and Out of Class
Organizational/timeline assessment	step by step grading throughout five film production process	In Class Only

Assignments

Other In-class Assignments

- Propose, discuss and select solo and class documentary film projects
- Develop documentary films for pre-production
- Prep developed documentary films for production
- Shoot required footage required for the documentary film edit
- Edit selected footage from the raw footage for a finished documentary short film
- Deliver and exhibit a polished documentary short film

Other Out-of-class Assignments

- Develop documentary film story ideas
- Location scout and pre-interview
- Shoot required footage
- Edit required footage (as well as in class)
- Sound edit and mix (as well as in class)
- Market, plan and produce a public screening

Grade Methods

Letter Grade Only

Distance Education Checklist

Include the percentage of online and on-campus instruction you anticipate.

Online %

50

On-campus %

50

Lab Courses

Instructional Materials and Resources

If you use any other technologies in addition to the college LMS, what other technologies will you use and how are you ensuring student data security?

Students taking this course in both hybrid and face to face formats utilize Google Drive accounts to share video created on iPhones, iPads, Macs (and possibly other cameras and computers) and edited in iMovie and Final Cut Pro X editing software (and possibly other editing software). All of these are password protected.

If used, explain how specific materials and resources outside the LMS will be used to enhance student learning.

In addition to being necessary to the function of the course, these materials and resources teach students “real world” technologies used in this field.

Effective Student/Faculty Contact

Which of the following methods of regular, timely, and effective student/faculty contact will be used in this course?

Within Course Management System:

Timely feedback and return of student work as specified in the syllabus
Discussion forums with substantive instructor participation
Chat room/instant messaging
Regular virtual office hours
Private messages
Video or audio feedback
Weekly announcements

External to Course Management System:

Direct e-mail

For hybrid courses:

Scheduled Face-to-Face group or individual meetings
Orientation, study, and/or review sessions

Briefly discuss how the selected strategies above will be used to maintain Regular Effective Contact in the course.

Chat, announcement, virtual office hours, messaging, video/audio feedback and e-mail will be used for direct, timely dialogue with students individually and in the production groups in which they collaborate. Timely feedback and return of student work, discussion forums in which students peer review other students’ work, face to face contact, study, review and both production and editing sessions in lab will be used to carry out the core objectives of the course.

If interacting with students outside the LMS, explain how additional interactions with students outside the LMS will enhance student learning.

Once the techniques and processes of a film production course have been laid out, repetition, reinforcement and creative + critical feedback are vital to student success. Working outside the LMS provides the additional technologies and “real world” element necessary to give students the robust learning experience required for film production courses.

Online Course Enrollment

Maximum enrollment for online sections of this course

24

Other Information

Provide any other relevant information that will help the Curriculum Committee assess the viability of offering this course in an online or hybrid modality.

Distance collaborative film production has been made more and more possible with the advancement of technologies that allow online sharing of large media files, group communications via audio, video and text and to remotely edit video. The technologies noted above are just the beginning. Virtual collaboration and distance sharing is the wave of the future and should be built into our developing film program.

Utilizing distance modality may also allow us to make the most time efficient use of our film production and editing labs by overlaying lab portion of a course and freeing up lecture for that course to be more precise to its subject or level.

MIS Course Data

CIP Code

50.0602 - Cinematography and Film/Video Production.

TOP Code

061220 - Film Production

SAM Code

C - Clearly Occupational

Basic Skills Status

Not Basic Skills

Prior College Level

Not applicable

Cooperative Work Experience

Not a Coop Course

Course Classification Status

Credit Course

Approved Special Class

Not special class

Noncredit Category

Not Applicable, Credit Course

Funding Agency Category

Not Applicable

Program Status

Program Applicable

Transfer Status

Transferable to UC & CSU

Allow Audit

No

Repeatability

No

Materials Fee

No

Additional Fees?

No

Files Uploaded**Attach relevant documents (example: Advisory Committee or Department Minutes)**

FILM 006_ RTV 015 Approval Letter.pdf

Approvals**Curriculum Committee Approval Date**

10/02/2018

Academic Senate Approval Date

10/11/2018

Board of Trustees Approval Date

11/14/2018

Chancellor's Office Approval Date

11/28/2018

Course Control Number

CCC000593722

Programs referencing this course

Advanced Film Production Certificate of Achievement (<http://catalog.collegeofthedesert.eduundefined?key=196/>)

Film Production AS Degree (<http://catalog.collegeofthedesert.eduundefined?key=69/>)