



**Filmmaking Program  
Northwest College**

Filmmaking  
Aric Nitzberg, Chair

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**FLMC 1391 – Special Topics: Documentary**

CRN 13182 – Fall 2018

Alief Campus Rm B300

Wednesdays 6:00 – 9:50 pm

3 units / 48 hours per semester / 16 weeks

Lecture/Lab

**Instructor: Jenny Waldo**

**Contact Information:**

[jennifer.waldo@hccs.edu](mailto:jennifer.waldo@hccs.edu)

cell: 310-709-6937

**Office location and hours:**

C322 (other side of atrium)

Tuesdays 11:00 am – 1:30 pm

Wednesdays 12:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Or by appointment

*Please feel free to contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course. You do not need to wait until you have received a poor grade before asking for my assistance. Your performance in my class is very important to me. I am available to hear your concerns and just to discuss course topics.*

**Course Description**

Documentaries are narrative films. They tell a non-scripted story based on footage that is edited together. Paid work can often be found for documentary films because those projects are often funded by grants and supported by non-profit fiscal sponsorship. During this course, students will gain skills with which they can find employment in documentaries while also producing a short documentary project of their own. These skills also transfer easily to working in the corporate/commercial/industrial video industries and even the fictional filmmaking world.

**Prerequisites:** TV Field Production

**Course Goal**

Have filmmaking majors creatively and critically think about story-telling through the documentary genre while experiencing hands-on the production process.

***Student Learning Outcomes***

The student will be able to:

1. Display a basic knowledge and understanding of what constitutes a documentary and the different styles documentaries take
2. Understand basic narrative structure and be able to discuss a documentary's narrative parts
3. Write a proposal for a documentary project
4. Understand licensing issues and conduct research for a documentary project
5. Understand the cinematography and audio considerations required for filming a documentary
6. Create a budget for a documentary project
7. Edit a finished video documentary project
8. Be able to critique another filmmaker's work

***Learning Objectives***

Students will:

- 1.1 Distinguish between what makes a film fictional versus documentary
- 1.2 Discuss the narrative structure of a documentary
- 1.3 Understand the sections needed for writing a proposal
- 1.4 Understand the areas that require research in a documentary
- 1.5 Show a basic understanding of the video recording process
- 1.6 Demonstrate the proper operation of common video field equipment
- 1.7 Discuss various concepts relating to visual images

- 1.8 Properly frame and compose basic camera shots and discuss visual style
- 1.9 Explain basic lighting concepts
- 1.10 Demonstrate the proper setup of basic lighting
- 1.11 Understand basic concepts pertaining to audio technology and acoustics
- 1.12 Understand terminology relating to video editing
- 1.13 Develop storylines from raw documentary footage and perform basic video and audio editing processes

**SCANS or Core Curriculum Statement and Other Standards**

The following workplace competencies and foundation skills have been designed into this courses curriculum:

- **Managing Resources:** Time, Materials, Space
- **Exhibiting Interpersonal Skills:** Work in team, Lead work teams, Negotiate with others
- **Working with Information:** Acquire and evaluate data, Organize and maintain information, Interpret and communicate data, Process information
- **Applying Systems Knowledge:** Understand systems
- **Using Technology:** Apply technology to specific tasks
- **Demonstrating Basic Skills:** Reading, Writing, Listening
- **Demonstrating Thinking Skills:** Creative thinking, Problem solving, Seeing with the mind's eye
- **Exhibiting Personal Qualities:** Individual responsibility Sociability, Self-management, Integrity

**16 WEEK CALENDAR\*****WEEK ONE (8/29/18)**

Course Orientation  
 Introductions  
 What is Documentary?

Homework:

- *Storyboard Photos*
- *Read Narrative Structure lecture*
- *Finish Storyboard*
- *Online Discussion*
- *Equipment Orientation*

**WEEK TWO (9/5/18)**

\*\*Storyboard Photos Due  
 Narrative Structure

Homework:

- *3 Loglines*
- *Read Interviewing lecture*
- *Prepare for Quiz*

**WEEK THREE (9/12/18)**

\*\*Quiz #1  
 \*\*Loglines Due  
 Interviewing

Homework:

- *Interview Project*
- *Read Editing & Cinematography lectures*
- *Prepare for Quiz*

**WEEK FOUR (9/19/18)**

\*\*Quiz #2  
 Editing, B-roll, Scenes & Cinematography

Homework:

- *Interview Project*
- *Prepare for Quiz*

**WEEK FIVE (9/26/18)**

\*\*Quiz #3  
 \*\*Interview Project Due

Homework:

- *Read Producing & Research lectures*

**WEEK SIX (10/3/18)**

Producing & Research

Homework:

- *Research Project*

**WEEK SEVEN (10/10/18)**

Producing & Research cont'd

Homework:

- *Research Project*
- *Prepare for Midterm*

**WEEK EIGHT (10/17/18)**

\*\*MIDTERM  
 Film Critiquing: Watch film

Homework:

- *Finish Film Analysis*
- *Read Proposal lecture*

**WEEK NINE (10/24/18)**

\*\*Film Analysis #1 Due  
 \*\*Research Project Due  
 Proposals

Homework:

- *Read Fundraising & Distribution lectures*
- *Write your proposal*

**WEEK TEN (10/31/18)**

Fundraising & Distribution

Homework:

- *Pitch video*
- *Proposal*

**WEEK ELEVEN (11/7/18)**

\*\*Proposals Due  
 Case Study

Homework:

- *Finish Film Analysis*
- *Pitch video*

**WEEK TWELVE**

**(11/14/18)**

\*\*Pitch Videos Due

\*\*Film Analysis #2 Due

Homework:

- *Final Project*
- *Read Budgeting lecture*
- *Prepare for Quiz*

**WEEK THIRTEEN**

**(11/21/18)**

*Work on Final Project*

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

**WEEK FOURTEEN**

**(11/28/18)**

\*\*Film Analysis #3 Due

\*\*Quiz 4

Budgeting

Homework:

- *Final Project*
- *Budget Assignment*

**WEEK FIFTEEN (12/5/18)**

\*\*Budgets Due

Homework:

- *Final Project*
- *Film Analysis #4*

**WEEK SIXTEEN**

**(12/12/18)**

\*\*Final Project Due

\*\*Film Analysis #4 Due

*\*subject to change*

### **Instructional Methods**

The class uses a variety of instructional methods including lectures, class discussions, lab assignments, and hands-on demonstrations and exploration both in and outside of class. As a student wanting to learn about the field of filmmaking, it is your responsibility to do the assigned readings, submit assignments, labs and projects in a timely fashion, study for exams, participate in classroom activities, and attend class.

***\*\*Unless approved by the instructor, any audio/video recording of the lecture is strictly prohibited.***

### **Student Assignments**

Students will be required to complete the following assignments during the semester:

- Create a photo-storyboard about you
- Write loglines for 3 potential documentaries you are interested in making
- Interview video
- Research video
- Project proposal
- Pitch video
- Budget Assignment
- Final Documentary Project
- *You will also be required to work on at least 1 video event organized by Instructor*

### ***Assigned Readings***

There is no assigned textbook, but handouts are often given in class or uploaded to the learning web along with the lecture slides. It is important to read the materials to reinforce what we talk about in class and prepare for the quizzes.

### ***In-class Quizzes***

There are 4 quizzes in the course that are **closed-note quizzes** based on the lectures and in-class work. Quizzes are more in-depth and require more write-in answers. Quizzes are given at the BEGINNING of class. If you are late, you will not be given extra time to complete it.

### ***Film Reviews***

Students will view and evaluate 4 feature-length documentary films throughout the semester.

### ***Midterm Exam***

Multiple-choice questions covering class lectures and assigned readings. You will NOT need a Scantron card to complete the test.

### ***Final Exam***

There is NO final exam for this class.

### ***Extra Credit***

There will be multiple opportunities for students to earn extra credit volunteering to work on the various events this semester. Students also have the opportunity for Extra Credit by turning in **two additional film reviews**. Each analysis can earn up to 5 grade points.

The student will be evaluated on the basis of production quality, participation and completion of required elements, including overall professionalism. The instructor will supply specific requirements for each scene and segment, as needed.

### ***Attendance & Late Assignments***

Attendance and participation are graded. If you arrive more than 30 minutes late, or leave more than 30 minutes before the end of class, you will receive **half** the point you earn for attending. Don't hesitate to text or email me if you know you're going to be late or after you've missed class. At the my discretion, you can earn back those missing points. **\*\*Note: your completion of the online discussion in Canvas, the Equipment Orientation, and your work at the film events are included in this grade.**

Assignments are due at the beginning of class.

If you are unable to be present in class on the date an assignment is due, you can always email me your assignment by the start of class that day and I will count it as on time.

If you are unable to be present in class for a quiz or test, you can make it up during office hours or during quiz-time the following week.

If you are unable to turn in the assignment on time, **11 points will be deducted from the final grade of the assignment for each week that it is late.** \*\*Projects that are granted extensions are exempt.

**NO MATERIALS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER CLASS TIME ON THE LAST DAY OF CLASS (December 12, 2018)**

### ***Instructional Materials***

- All learning materials will be provided by the Instructor.
- Digital media (SD cards) – Class 10 – and other materials as needed for projects. (Please note that all final projects become the property of Houston Community College and will not be returned.)
- All lecture materials are posted on Eagle Online: <https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/>

### ***Equipment Use Orientation***

The Filmmaking department requires that any student who wished to check out equipment (which you will need to pass this class) will need to take an equipment use orientation.

**Orientations will be done ONLINE this semester between August 27<sup>th</sup> and September 10<sup>th</sup> on Learning Web:** <https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/misty.barham/filmmaking>

Failure to complete the orientation and the required form within it will result in a deduction in your grade, denial of labs, studios, and/or equipment. There will be **no make-ups or extended dates** to complete this orientation for first start students this semester.

**Instructor Requirements**

For each assignment, the instructions will define what the Instructor expects from the student in order to earn a "C" grade. This will give the student an idea of what the instructor considers the "average". The instructor will give higher grades based on demonstration of knowledge and understanding and even higher grades based on innovation and creativity related to the topic. This class should showcase your enthusiasm and demonstrate your skills/knowledge and ability to perform in the workforce.

***HCC Grading Scale***

A = 100 - 90	4 points per semester hour
B = 89 - 80:	3 points per semester hour
C = 79 - 70:	2 points per semester hour
D = 69 - 60:	1 point per semester hour
59 and below = F	0 points per semester hour
W (Withdrawn)	0 points per semester hour
I (Incomplete)	0 points per semester hour

\*To compute grade point average (GPA), divide the total grade points by the total number of semester hours attempted. The grades "IP," "COM" and "I" do not affect GPA.

***Grading Criteria***

Your final grade will be based on the following proportions:

1. Attendance and Participation – 5%
2. Quizzes – 10%
3. Film Reviews – 10%
4. Create a photo-storyboard about you – 5%
5. Write loglines for 3 potential documentaries you are interested in making – 5%
6. Interview video – 10%
7. Research video – 5%
8. Project proposal – 10%
9. Pitch video – 10%
10. Project budget – 5%
11. Final Documentary Project – 15%
12. Midterm Exam – 10%

**Withdrawal deadline = November 2, 2018**

**HCC Policy Statements**

Access Student Services Policies on their Web site:

<http://central.hccs.edu/students/student-handbook/>

- ADA accommodations
- Academic Honesty
- Student Attendance
- 3-peaters

*HCC strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please meet with a campus Abilities Counselor as soon as possible in order to establish reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and Ability Services. It is the policy and practice of HCC to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. For more information, please go to <http://www.hccs.edu/district/students/disability-services/>*

*Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable doing so. This will enable us to provide any resources available. <http://www.hccs.edu/applying-and-paying/financial-aid/food-scholarship/>*

*At HCC the safety of our students, staff, and faculty is our first priority. As of August 1, 2017, Houston Community College is subject to the Campus Carry Law (SB11 2015). For more information, visit the HCC Campus Carry web page at <http://www.hccs.edu/district/departments/police/campus-carry/>*

*Houston Community College is committed to cultivating an environment free from inappropriate conduct of a sexual or gender-based nature including sex discrimination, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. Sex discrimination includes all forms of sexual and gender-based misconduct and violates an individual's fundamental rights and personal dignity. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex-including pregnancy and parental status-in educational programs and activities. If you require an accommodation due to pregnancy please contact an Abilities Services Counselor. The Director of EEO/Compliance is designated as the Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator. All inquiries concerning HCC policies, compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations (such as Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504), and complaints may be directed to:*

*David Cross  
Director EEO/Compliance  
Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity  
3100 Main  
(713) 718-8271  
Houston, TX 77266-7517 or [Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu](mailto:Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu)*

**RECOMMENDED**  
**DOCUMENTARIES**

13<sup>th</sup>

20 FEET FROM STARDOM	HEART OF DARKNESS	PARADISE LOST (Series)
78/52	HOOP DREAMS	PARIS IS BURNING
ACCIDENTAL COURTESY	ICARUS	PINA
AN ACT OF KILLING	IF GOD IS WILLING AND DA CREEK DON'T RISE	THE PUNK SINGER
AFTER TILLER	AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH	THE REALMS OF THE UNREAL
ANNE FRANK REMEMBERED	INTO THE ABYSS	RESTREPO
A BAND CALLED DEATH	INVISIBLE WAR	RICH HILL
BATTLE OF SAN PIETRO	JESUS CAMP	ROGER & ME
BLACKFISH	JIRO DREAMS OF SUSHI	SEARCHING FOR SUGARMAN
BORN INTO BROTHELS	JODOROWSKY'S DUNE	SICKO
BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE	KING OF KONG AND A FIST FULL OF QUARTERS	SPELLBOUND
THE BRIDGE	KOYAANISQATSI	STICK 'EM UP
BROTHER'S KEEPER	LET THE FIRES BURN	STORIES WE TELL
BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB	LET THERE BE LIGHT	SUPER SIZE ME
BULLY	LEVIATHAN	SWEET GRASS
BURDEN OF DREAMS	LONG DISTANCE	TAPPED
CAPTURING THE FRIEDMANS	REVOLUTIONARY	TARNATION
CAVE OF FORGOTTEN DREAMS	LONG WAY HOME	THAT GUY WHO WAS IN THAT THING
CITIZENFOUR	LOST IN LA MANCHA	THESE BIRDS WALK
THE CORPORATION	LOST SOUL: THE DOOMED	THIN BLUE LINE
THE COVE	JOURNEY OF RICHARD STANLEY'S ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU	TOUCHING THE VOID
CRUMB	LOVE, MARILYN	THE TRIALS OF DARRYL HUNT
CUTIE AND THE BOXER	MAD HOT BALLROOM	UNDEFEATED
THE CUTTING EDGE: THE MAGIC OF MOVIE EDITING	MAN ON A WIRE	VISIONS OF LIGHT
FAHRENHEIT 9/11	MARCH OF THE PENGUINS	VOICES OF IRAQ
FOOD, INC.	MISS REPRESENTATION	WAITING FOR SUPERMAN
FORKS OVER KNIVES	MURDERBALL	WHAT HAPPENED, MISS SIMONE?
GOOD HAIR	MY KID COULD PAINT THAT	WHEN THE LEVEES BROKE
GREY GARDENS	NOTORIOUS RBG	WHEN WE WERE KINGS
GRIZZLY MAN	ONE DAY IN SEPTEMBER	WHERE SOLDIERS COME FROM
HANDS ON A HARD BODY	OXYANA	WHITE HELMETS
HARLAN COUNTY, USA	OVERNIGHT	WILD WILD COUNTRY