



**Filmmaking Program
Northwest College**

Filmmaking
Aric Nitzberg, Chair

FLMC 1391 – Special Topics: Documentary

CRN 17884 – Spring 2017

Alief Campus Rm B300

Wednesdays 6:00 – 10:00 pm

3 units / 48 hours per semester / 16 weeks

Lecture/Lab

Instructor: Jenny Waldo

Contact Information:

jennifer.waldo@hccs.edu

cell: 310-709-6937

Office location and hours:

C322 (other side of atrium)

Tuesdays 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Wednesdays 10:00 am – 12:30 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: None

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. 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. Create a 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
- 1.9 Discuss the development of personal photographic styles
- 1.10 Explain basic lighting concepts
- 1.11 Demonstrate the proper setup of basic lighting
- 1.12 Understand basic concepts pertaining to audio technology and acoustics
- 1.13 Understand terminology relating to video editing
- 1.14 Develop storylines from raw documentary footage and perform basic 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 (1/18/17)

Course Orientation
Introductions
What is Documentary?

WEEK TWO (1/25/17)

**Assignment #1 Due
Narrative Structure

WEEK THREE (2/1/17)

**Quiz #1
**Assignment #2 Due
Interviewing

WEEK FOUR (2/8/17)

**Quiz #2
Producing

WEEK FIVE (2/15/17)

**Quiz #3
Researchers

WEEK SIX (2/22/17)

**Project #1 Due
Scenes, B-roll, Cinematography

WEEK SEVEN (3/1/17)

**Assignment #3 Due
Case Study #1
Review for midterm

WEEK EIGHT (3/8/17)

**MIDTERM
**Film Analysis #1 Due

WEEK NINE (3/15/17)

**SPRING BREAK!!

WEEK TEN (3/22/17)

**Film Analysis #2 Due
Post Production

WEEK ELEVEN (3/29/17)

**Quiz #4
Fundraising & Distribution

WEEK TWELVE (4/5/17)

**Quiz #5
**Assignment #4 Due
Proposals

WEEK THIRTEEN (4/12/17)

**Rough Cuts of Project #2 Due

WEEK FOURTEEN (4/19/17)

**Film Analysis #3 Due
Case Study #2

WEEK FIFTEEN (4/26/17)

Budgeting

WEEK SIXTEEN (5/3/17)

**Final Project #2 Due

WEEK SEVENTEEN (5/10/17)

**FINAL EXAM
**Proposals for Project #2 Due
**Film Analysis #4 Due

Instructional Methods

The class will be comprised of a variety of instructional methods including lectures, class discussions, lab assignments, and hands-on demonstrations. 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:

- Assignment #1: Create a photo-storyboard about you
- Assignment #2: Write loglines for 3 potential documentaries you are interested in making
- Assignment #3: List producing & research considerations for your project
- Assignment #4: List fundraising resources and distribution options for your project
- Assignment #5: Proposals for your finished documentary project

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

Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class. These quizzes will include multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. They will cover material from all previous class periods and assigned reading.

Film Reviews

Students will view and evaluate 4 films (3 of their choosing) 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

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

Student Projects

- Project 1 – Working in small groups, film and edit interviews of fellow students
- Project 2 – Semester-long individual documentary project

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.

Late Assignments & Absences

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 6:00pm the day of class and I will count it as on time.

If you are unable to be present in class for a quiz, you can make-up the quiz the NEXT week by arriving at 5:45pm to take the quiz.

If you are unable to turn in the assignment on time, **10 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.

Instructional Materials

- All learning materials will be provided by the Instructor.
- Digital media (SD cards) 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 will be posted after the class on the Learning Web: <http://learning.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. Please ensure that you take part in the online orientation. Links will be provided.

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. Assignment #1 – 5%
5. Assignment #2 – 5%
6. Assignment #3 – 5%
7. Assignment #4 – 5%
8. Classmate Documentaries – 5%
9. Student Project: Rough Cut – 5%
10. Student Project: Final Version – 15%
11. Student Project: Proposals – 10%
12. Midterm Exam – 10%
13. Final Exam – 10%

***Extra credit is at the instructor's discretion*

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
- Withdrawal deadline = April 3, 2017

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 requires that institutions have policies and procedures that protect students' rights with regard to sex/gender discrimination. Information regarding these rights is on the HCC Website under Students-Anti-discrimination. Students who are pregnant and require accommodations should contact any of the ADA Counselors for assistance. It is important that every student understands and conforms to respectful behavior while at HCC. Sexual misconduct is not condoned and will be addressed promptly. Know your rights and how to avoid these difficult situations.

Log in to www.edurisksolutions.org. Sign in using your HCC student e-mail account, then go to the button at the top right that says Login and enter your student number.

Access HCC Online Policies on their Web site

All students are responsible for reading and understanding the HCC Online Student Handbook, which contains policies, information about conduct, and other important information. For the

HCC Online Student Handbook click on the link below or go to the HCC Online page on the HCC website.

The HCC Online Student Handbook contains policies and procedures unique to the DE student. Students should have reviewed the handbook as part of the mandatory orientation. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the handbook's contents. The handbook contains valuable information, answers, and resources, such as HCC Online contacts, policies and procedures (how to drop, attendance requirements, etc.), student services (ADA, financial aid, degree planning, etc.), course information, testing procedures, technical support, and academic calendars. Refer to the HCC Online Student Handbook by visiting this link:

<http://www.hccs.edu/media/houston-community-college/distance-education/student-services/HCC-Online-Student-Handbook.pdf>

Access CE Policies on their Web site: <http://www.hccs.edu/continuing-education/>

RECOMMENDED DOCUMENTARIES

13th

20 FEET FROM STARDOM
AN ACT OF KILLING
AFTER TILLER
ANNE FRANK REMEMBERED
A BAND CALLED DEATH
BATTLE OF SAN PIETRO
BLACKFISH
BORN INTO BROTHELS
BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE
THE BRIDGE
BROTHER'S KEEPER
BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB
BULLY
BURDEN OF DREAMS
CAPTURING THE FRIEDMANS
CAVE OF FORGOTTEN DREAMS
CITIZENFOUR
THE CORPORATION
THE COVE
CRUMB
CUTIE AND THE BOXER
THE CUTTING EDGE: THE MAGIC OF
 MOVIE EDITING
FAHRENHEIT 9/11
FOOD, INC.
FORKS OVER KNIVES
GOOD HAIR
GREY GARDENS
GRIZZLY MAN
HANDS ON A HARD BODY
HARLAN COUNTY, USA
HEART OF DARKNESS
HOOP DREAMS
IF GOD IS WILLING AND DA CREEK
 DON'T RISE
AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH
INTO THE ABYSS
INVISIBLE WAR
JESUS CAMP
JIRO DREAMS OF SUSHI
JODOROWSKY'S DUNE
KING OF KONG AND A FIST FULL OF
 QUARTERS

KOYAANISQATSI
LET THE FIRES BURN
LET THERE BE LIGHT
LEVIATHAN
LONG DISTANCE REVOLUTIONARY
LONG WAY HOME
LOST IN LA MANCHA
LOST SOUL: THE DOOMED JOURNEY
 OF RICHARD STANLEY'S ISLAND
 OF DR. MOREAU
LOVE, MARILYN
MAD HOT BALLROOM
MAN ON A WIRE
MARCH OF THE PENGUINS
MISS REPRESENTATION
MURDERBALL
MY KID COULD PAINT THAT
ONE DAY IN SEPTEMBER
OXYANA
OVERNIGHT
PARADISE LOST (Series)
PARIS IS BURNING
PINA
THE PUNK SINGER
THE REALMS OF THE UNREAL
RESTREPO
RICH HILL
ROGER & ME
SEARCHING FOR SUGARMAN
SICKO
SPELLBOUND
STICK 'EM UP
STORIES WE TELL
SUPER SIZE ME
SWEET GRASS
TAPPED
TARNATION
THAT GUY WHO WAS IN THAT THING
THESE BIRDS WALK
THIN BLUE LINE
TOUCHING THE VOID
THE TRIALS OF DARRYL HUNT
UNDEFEATED
VISIONS OF LIGHT

VOICES OF IRAQ
WAITING FOR SUPERMAN
WHAT HAPPENED, MISS SIMONE?

WHEN THE LEVEES BROKE
WHEN WE WERE KINGS
WHERE SOLDIERS COME FROM