

## DOC 339/439: TOPICS IN DOCUMENTARY PRODUCTION

### The Nonfiction Sports Narrative

Autumn, 2022

Thursday: 10:00-1:15 PM, 14 East Jackson #207

Professor Eric D. Seals (he/him): [eseals@depaul.edu](mailto:eseals@depaul.edu)

Virtual Office Hours: Thursdays 1:15PM - Email for Zoom Link

### Description:

This class will be a hands-on workshop exploring a film production process or technique that has had a significant influence on the development of non-fiction storytelling and expression. Students will create short documentaries on topics of their choosing, utilizing and incorporating the method being taught. Specific topics will vary with each quarter. Classes will consist of lectures, screenings, in-class production, discussion and analyses, culminating in creative assignments. Students are encouraged to explore their individual creative voice and to use this knowledge to stimulate original work in their areas of interest. **This is a two-credit workshop.**

### Course Outcomes:

Working in teams, students will complete the nonfiction sports narrative they have produced in the previous two quarters. By the end of the autumn quarter, planning and development will be complete with some filming executed.

### Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course students will:

- Have completed Creative Development Document
- Have completed Creative Treatment Document
- Acquire archival materials and footage as necessary
- Complete a three minute work sample for their film
- Demonstrate the ability to collaborate in a team environment

### Textbooks and Printed Resources

All readings and screenings to be provided by instructor.

### Course Management:

This course is housed and managed on **D2L**. Everything is there, so check it out.

### Course Schedule:

Due to the nature of booking professional guests, speaker dates are subject to change.

### Week 1: September 8

- Course Introduction
- Create Teams

### Week 2: September 22

- Athletic Department Pitch Meeting

### Week 3: October 6

- Creative Development & Creative Treatment First Draft Due

### Week 4: October 20

- Project Updates

### Week 5: November 3

- Creative Development & Creative Treatment Final Due
- Three Minute Work Sample Due

## Assignments

Participation and Collaboration: this course requires students to work together as a creative team to create a film. The consistency and commitment of your contribution to your project and the projects of other teams will be considered in your final grade.

Creative Development: Students are to complete a document that details the film they're creating.

Creative Treatment: Students are to create a document that showcases how the film is going to look.

Work Sample: Students will produce a three minute work sample to showcase what they've completed in the quarter.

Pre-Interview/Meeting: Students will talk with their documentary subjects

before they start filming.

Filming: Students will complete at least two film days before the end of the quarter.

Final reflection, due June 7: Reflect on the process of producing this film, your role in it, and what you have learned. Also comment on what you liked about this process and what you feel could be improved for next time.

### **Grading Policy**

Participation and Collaboration: 40 points

Creative Development: 20 points

Creative Treatment: 20 points

Three minute Work Sample: 20 points

100 Total

A = 100-93, A- = 92-90, B+ = 89-88, B = 87-83, B- = 82-80, C+ = 79-78, C = 77-73, C- = 72-70, D+ = 69-68, D = 67-63, D- = 62-60, F = 59-0.

A indicates excellence, B indicates good work, C indicates satisfactory work, D work is unsatisfactory, F is substantially unsatisfactory. **Late work is rarely accepted.**

### **Attendance:**

Students without an excused absence forfeit their assignment grade for the first two classes they miss. **Three absences will constitute course failure.**

### **Excused Absence:**

To petition for an excused absence, students who miss class due to illness or significant personal circumstances should complete the Absence Notification process through the Dean of Students office. The form can be accessed at <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/dos/forms.html>. Students must submit supporting documentation alongside the form. The professor reserves the sole right whether to offer an excused absence and/or academic accommodations for an excused absence.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

DePaul Students seeking disability-related accommodations are required to register with DePaul's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) enabling them to access accommodations and support services to assist with their success. There are two office locations: Loop Campus (312) 362-8002 , Lincoln Park Campus (773) 325-1677  
Email: [csd@depaul.edu](mailto:csd@depaul.edu)

Students who register with the Center for Students with Disabilities are also invited to contact Dr. Gregory Moorhead, Director of the Center, privately to discuss how he may

assist in facilitating the accommodations to be used in a course. This is best done early in the term. The conversation will remain confidential to the extent possible.

Please see <https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/departments/Pages/csd.aspx> for Services and Contact Information.

### **Diversity and Inclusion:**

At DePaul, our mission calls us to explore “what must be done” to respect the inherent dignity and identity of each human person. We value diversity because it is part of our history, our traditions, and our future. We see diversity as an asset and a strength that adds to the richness of classroom learning. In my course, I strive to include diverse creators, perspectives, and teaching pedagogies. I also encourage open dialogue and spaces for students to express their unique identities and perspectives. I am open to having difficult conversations and I will strive to create an inclusive classroom that values all perspectives. If at any time, the classroom experience does not live up to this expectation, please feel free to contact me via email or during office hours.

### **Preferred Name & Gender Pronouns**

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the quarter so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. Please also note that students may choose to identify within the University community with a preferred first name that differs from their legal name and may also update their gender. The preferred first name will appear in university related systems and documents except where the use of the legal name is necessitated or required by university business or legal need. For more information and instructions on how to do so, please see the Student Preferred Name and Gender Policy at <http://policies.depaul.edu/policy/policy.aspx?pid=332>

### **Creative Subject Matter and Civil Discourse:**

DePaul is a community that thrives on open discourse that challenges students, both intellectually and personally, to be socially responsible leaders. Controversial or sensitive subject matter may find its way into our conversations. Students have the right to address challenging issues in their creative work, so long as that work do not glorify or advocate for hate, discrimination, or violence of any kind – or involve the professor or another member of the class without their given permission.

Conversely, class members may express how a student’s statements or creative work make them feel, and to do so respectfully and constructively. If you become uncomfortable with a conversation for any reason, you may be excused from the remainder of class without penalty. It is the expectation that all dialogue in this course will be civil and respectful of the dignity of each student. Any instances of disrespect or hostility will jeopardize a student’s ability to be successful in the course. The professor will partner with the Dean of Students Office to assist in managing such issues.

### **SCA Production Handbook:**

The School of Cinematic Arts Production Handbook is an invaluable resource to all DePaul student filmmakers. The answers to most questions regarding contacts, resources, contracts, rules, and guidelines can be found inside. It is updated annually on [SCA Central](#) and linked to the CDM Production Resources page [here](#).

### **Talent Waivers:**

Talent waivers must be signed by any outside talent (non-DePaul students) **prior** to camera rolling for any projects. These waivers must be signed and submitted to the Production Office before shooting. Waivers and other commonly used forms can be found on [SCA Central](#) under "Filmmaking Paperwork".

### **DePaul Production Insurance:**

DePaul production insurance does not cover the use of fire (including pyrotechnics and fireplaces), vehicles, or animals of any kind. Insurance is required for location agreements, film permits, and any equipment rental agreements. Any questions about DePaul's production insurance should be directed to the Production Office well before shooting begins ([production@cdm.depaul.edu](mailto:production@cdm.depaul.edu)).

### **Use of Prop Firearms:**

Rules and regulations **MUST** be followed when using prop firearms. The instructor must approve the appearance of a prop gun in any student film. An approved/signed Prop Firearm Request Form must be submitted to the Production Office prior to filming. It can be found on [SCA Central](#) under "Filmmaking Paperwork".

### **ABC - Always Be Careful:**

Film and video production shoots can be hazardous. Above all, work safely in all situations and always think before you act. Please don't hesitate to ask me if you're unsure about anything regarding your shoot, in or out of class.

### **Academic Policies:**

All students are required to manage their class schedules each term in accordance with the deadlines for enrolling and withdrawing as indicated in the [University Academic Calendar](#). Information on enrollment, withdrawal, grading, and incompletes can be found at: [cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment](http://cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment).

### **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:**

This course will be subject to the academic integrity policy passed by faculty. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>. The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course should be aware of the strong sanctions that can be imposed against someone guilty of plagiarism. If proven, a charge of plagiarism could result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion. The strongest of sanctions will be imposed on anyone who submits as his/her own work any assignment which has been prepared by

someone else. If you have any questions or doubts about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials be sure to consult the instructor.

### Changes to Syllabus:

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under Announcements in D2L, and students will be notified via email.

### Copyright Statement:

The materials provided by the instructor in this course are for the use of the students enrolled in the course. Copyrighted course materials may not be further disseminated.

### COVID 19 Policies:

The health and safety of everyone at DePaul depend on the cooperation of all who come to campus. By taking care of yourself, you protect the entire community. DePaul's COVID-19 response plans are based on the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Chicago Department of Public Health and the university's medical advisor from AMITA Health. The following mandatory protocols must be followed by DePaul students, faculty, and staff at all times on both campuses.

#### COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster

- Students in all degree programs, as well as faculty and staff, are required to submit proof of a booster by Tuesday, March 1.
- To submit proof of vaccination, students, faculty and staff should follow the instructions detailed on the [COVID-19 Vaccine webpage](#).
- Everyone at DePaul is encouraged to seek a booster as soon as they are eligible in the spirit of caring for each other and our surrounding community.

#### Face Masks

- DePaul requires wearing a mask in classrooms and labs for the first two weeks of spring quarter March 28 to April 10.
- Outside of these spaces, masks are recommended, but not required. • Starting April 11, masks will no longer be required in classrooms and labs. • If you need one, KN95 masks are available at a limited number of first-floor desk areas near building entrances.

#### Physical Distancing

- In keeping with City of Chicago guidance and good public health practice, maintain physical distancing to the extent possible.

#### Personal Hygiene

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. • Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol if soap and water are not available. Up to 700 sanitation stands are available throughout both campuses.

## Personal Care

- Monitor yourself for symptoms each time you plan to come to campus. • Stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

## Online Course Evaluations:

Instructor and course evaluations provide valuable feedback that can improve teaching and learning. The greater the level of participation, the more useful the results. As students, you are in the unique position to view the instructor over time. Your comments about what works and what doesn't work can help faculty build on the elements of the course that are strong and improve those that are weak. Isolated comments from students and instructors' peers may also be helpful, but evaluation results based on high response rates may be statistically reliable (believable). As you experience this course and material, think about how your learning is impacted. Your honest opinions about your experience in and commitment to the course and your learning may help improve some components of the course for the next group of students. Positive comments also show the department chairs and college deans the commitment of instructors to the university and teaching evaluation results are one component used in annual performance reviews (including salary raises and promotion/tenure). The evaluation of the instructor and course provides you an opportunity to make your voice heard on an important issue – the quality of teaching at DePaul.

## Withdrawal:

Students who withdraw from the course do so by using the Campus Connection system (<http://campusconnect.depaul.edu>.) Withdrawals processed via this system are effective the day on which they are made. Simply ceasing to attend, or notifying the instructor, or nonpayment of tuition, does not constitute an official withdrawal from class and will result in academic as well as financial penalty.

## Retroactive Withdrawal:

This policy exists to assist students for whom extenuating circumstances prevented them from meeting the withdrawal deadline. During their college career students may be allowed one medical/personal administrative withdrawal and one college office administrative withdrawal, each for one or more courses in a single term. Repeated requests will not be considered. Submitting an appeal for retroactive withdrawal does not guarantee approval.

College office appeals for CDM students must be submitted online via MyCDM. The deadlines for submitting appeals are as follows:

Autumn Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent winter quarter

Winter Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent spring quarter

Spring Quarter: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent autumn quarter

Summer Terms: Last day of the last final exam of the subsequent autumn quarter

### **Incomplete:**

An incomplete grade is a special, temporary grade that may be assigned by an instructor when unforeseeable circumstances prevent a student from completing course requirements by the end of the term and when otherwise the student had a record of satisfactory progress in the course. CDM policy requires the student to initiate the request for incomplete grade before the end of the term in which the course is taken. Prior to submitting the incomplete request, the student must discuss the circumstances with the instructor. Students may initiate the incomplete request process in MyCDM. All incomplete requests must be approved by the instructor of the course and a CDM Associate Dean. Only exceptions cases will receive such approval. If approved, students are required to complete all remaining course requirement independently in consultation with the instructor by the deadline indicated on the incomplete request form. By default, an incomplete grade will automatically change to a grade of F after two quarters have elapsed (excluding summer) unless another grade is recorded by the instructor. An incomplete grade does NOT grant the student permission to attend the same course in a future quarter.