

DOC 424 Documentary Production
Spring Quarter 2020
Tuesday 5:45 – 9:00 PM
Remote

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Susanne Suffredin Office: Remote

Office Hours: Wednesday 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM (or by email appointment other times)

Email: ssuffre1@depaul.edu (best way to reach me)

Email will be answered within 24 hours; Saturday emails by Monday

Course Overview and Learning Goals

Course Website D2L

Course Overview

This course will explore documentary styles and techniques and through modified assignments that use a wide variety of modes and formats you will be creating three short pieces along with writing and pitching an idea for a doc you would like to make. I will work to maintain the workshop atmosphere as best I can using Zoom sessions and scheduling individual feedback sessions with each of you at various points throughout the quarter. Also, we should anticipate that changes may need to be made as the quarter unfolds. Those changes will be communicated as timely as possible and I ask that we all stay flexible and responsive.

Learning Goals:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- verbally pitch a compelling idea
- develop skills in conceptualizing, directing and editing short documentary pieces.
- understand and incorporate interview techniques, visualizing and shooting observational footage, and construct narratives through the integration of sound and images.

- PREREQUISITES: FILM 410 and POST 400 or equivalent.

Required Text

Rabiger, Michael. *Directing the Documentary*. Sixth Edition. Boston: Focal Press, 2014.

The book is available to order through: <https://depaul.bncollege.com/> or available to read for free through the Safari Books portal on the DePaul library site. Search 'Safari Books' in the search bar in the top-right and click the first link in the results. Students will then be occupying one of the nine available slots to access the book, and sometimes all nine slots can be taken, but the Rabiger textbook is there in full and functions exactly like any other e-Book.

Required Materials and Equipment

Ability to record audio and video and access to adequate software for editing projects.

Grading: Assignment Guidelines and Evaluation Criteria will be posted in D2L

Assignments

Assignment 1: Turning Point Interview	10%
Assignment 2: Day in the Life Project	20%
Assignment 3: Archival Interview Project	20%
Assignment 4: Ideal Film Pitch	10%
Participation	20%
Discussion/reflection writing	20%

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 (all assignments are graded excellent and submitted on time), B indicates good work, C indicates satisfactory work, D indicates unsatisfactory work, and F is a failure to demonstrate an understanding of course concept

Week 1 Intro to class, assignments, structure

ZOOM Meeting: Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/947343800>

Introductions
Class fundamentals
Assignments
Equipment
Regular meetings and individual meetings
Questions and Concerns

For Week 2:

To Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QMlIjSnt_E **Ten Meter Tower | NYT Op-Docs**

To Read: Rabiger: Part 1 Chapter 2 The Nature of Documentary pg. 19-30
Part 2 Chapter 4 Constructing Reality pg. 65-73
Article (Also Posted in News) Create Free Account to read
https://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/29/books/review/who-gets-to-tell-other-peoples-stories.html?mcubz=3&_r=1

Week 2 The Nature of Documentary

ZOOM Meeting: Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/947343800>

Review: Readings

Assign: Assignment 1: Turning Point Interview Due Week 4

For Week 3:

To Watch: PP Week 2 Recorded Lecture
<https://imgur.com/gallery/cuelQ> **Day In the Life**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5FLrIkEph8&feature=emb_title
Holocaust Survivor Band | Op-Docs | The New York Times

To Read: Rabiger: Part 7 Chapter 31 Conducting and shooting Interviews pg. 450-467

Week 3 Interviews

ZOOM Meeting: Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/947343800>

Review: Reading

For Week 4:

To Watch: PP Week 3 Recorded Lecture
<https://vimeo.com/292537862> **My Dead Dad's Porno Tapes**

Week 4 Developing Story Ideas

ZOOM Meeting: Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/947343800>

Review: Assignment 1: Turning Point Interview

Assign: Assignment 2: Day in the Life Due Week 6

For Week 5:

To Watch: PP 4 Recorded Lecture
How to shoot verite and B roll – recorded lecture Dana Kupper
<https://vimeo.com/305536036> **Baby Brother**

To Read: Story Elements and Film Grammar Part 2, Ch. 5 pg. 75-93

Week 5 Story Elements and Film Grammar

ZOOM Meeting: Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/947343800>

Review: Story Elements and Film Grammar
Project updates

For Week 6:

To Watch: PP 5 Recorded Lecture
<https://www.nytimes.com/video/opinion/100000005676963/arctic-boyhood.html> **Artic Boyhood**

To Read: Rabiger: The Nature of Documentary: Philosophies of Approach pg.22-64

Week 6 Philosophies of Approach

ZOOM Meeting: Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/947343800>

Review: Philosophies of Approach

Assignment 2: Day in the Life

Assign: Assignment 3: Archival/ Interview Due Week 9

For Week 7:

To Watch: PP 6 Developing Story Ideas - Recorded Lecture

<http://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/packages/html/nyregion/1-in-8-million/index.html?>

One In 8 Million

Week 7 Structuring a narrative

ZOOM Meeting: Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/947343800>

Review: Working with Archival

Project updates

For Week 8:

To Watch: PP7 Organizing footage for editing - Recorded Lecture

To Read: Editing Part 5, Chapters 14 and 15, pp. 211-240.

Week 8 Post Production in Documentary

ZOOM Meeting: Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/947343800>

Review: Editing

Assign: Film I'd Love to Make Pitch

For Week 9:

To Read: Developing and Pitching a Short Documentary Part 3 Ch. 8 and 9, pg.127-136

You and Film Authorship Part 1 Chapter 1 pg.5-18

Week 9 Course Review

ZOOM Meeting: Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/947343800>

Review: Assignment 3: Archival/ Interview

Week 10 Last Class: Pitch Presentations

ZOOM Meeting: Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/947343800>

Present: Film I'd Love to Make Pitch

Changes to Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. Depending on time factors and guest artist opportunities, the assignments projected for the term may require slight alteration or rescheduling.

If a change occurs, it will be addressed during class or posted in News in D2L.

Assignments – Assignments must be completed by the due date as indicated in the syllabus. Late work will not be accepted without prior consent of the instructor.

Screenings – Film screenings and assignment screening discussions are an integral part of the course participation grade. Selected films will be analyzed for specific conceptual and stylistic choices. We will apply the same standards to the analysis of group projects. Be open to being challenged and honest as there will be differing ideas and points of view expressed. These discussions are important in the development of your ability to collaborate.

School Policies

Online Instructor Evaluation: Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over two weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation.

Email: Email is the primary means of communication between faculty and students enrolled in this course outside of class time. Students should be sure their email listed under "demographic information" at <http://campusconnect.depaul.edu> is correct.

Academic Integrity Policy: This course will be subject to the academic integrity policy passed by faculty. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>

Plagiarism: 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.

Incomplete: An incomplete grade is given only for an exceptional reason such as a death in the family, a serious illness, etc. Any such reason must be documented. Any incomplete request must be made at least two weeks before the final, and approved by the Dean of the College of Computing and Digital Media. Any consequences resulting from a poor grade for the course will not be considered as valid reasons for such a request.