

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course #: DOC 312\_412-401 Name: Editing The Documentary  
Quarter: Winter 2021 Wed 5:45- 9 PM

Susanne Suffredin Office: Remote  
Office Hours: Wednesday 1:30-4:30 PM  
Email: [ssuffre1@depaul.edu](mailto:ssuffre1@depaul.edu)  
Email will be answered within 24 hours; Saturday emails by Monday

---

**The best way to learn how to edit a documentary is to edit a documentary.**

From: Documentary Editing Principles & Practice Jacob Bricca

### **Course Management System:**

D2L

### **Course Summary:**

Editing the Documentary will expose students to the specialized post production work flow of documentary film. Utilizing a workshop atmosphere in combination with lectures and projects, students will gain an appreciation of the art and craft of documentary film editing.

This course will cover an overview of current documentary trends and styles, explore various workflows to find the story in documentary footage, the ethical role of editor in shaping the stories of real people and events, how to apply the visual language of fiction to documentary film, use of archival media in a contemporary way, how to structure the story scene to scene and where to start and end the story.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understanding the role of the editor in a documentary post-production workflow
- Learn the fundamental story telling skills needed to start, edit and finish a documentary in today's media environment
- Understand the unique relationship between production and post production in documentary
- Understand the unique way that the documentary story is shaped in post-production
- Acquire broad knowledge to create compelling stories by placing them within a social and historical context that informs story content

### **Required Materials/Equipment:**

1 500GB hard drive with USB3 and/or Thunderbolt ports for storing project data files and media assets.  
1 USB flash drive for project data file backup.

The following link contains instructions for you to access Adobe CC for free.

[https://depaul.service-now.com/sp?id=kb\\_article\\_view&sysparm\\_article=KB0010764](https://depaul.service-now.com/sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0010764)

### **Required Texts**

Bricca, Jacob. *Documentary Editing Principles & Practice*. Focal Press, 2018.

### **Recommended Texts**

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

### **Week 1 Course Overview/ What distinguishes Doc editing from Fiction editing**

Zoom Meeting:<https://depaul.zoom.us/j/91371964137?pwd=YitiYnJ5VjduWVdOZGQ3VG1wMIRXUT09>

Password: 199878

Introduction to the course

Screen: Various clips

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Q3eITC01Fg&feature=youtu.be>

Assign: Short Film Edit 1\_ Part 1 **DUE: by midnight 1/19.**

#### **FOR WEEK 2**

Reading: Documentary Editing Part I and II pg.3- 47

In D2l: 12 Video Editing Tips for Cutting a Documentary Workflow

### **Week 2 Editing Workflows: Where to start**

Zoom Meeting:<https://depaul.zoom.us/j/91371964137?pwd=YitiYnJ5VjduWVdOZGQ3VG1wMIRXUT09>

Password: 199878

To cover: Organization and Reviewing Footage

To review: Reading Assignment

Short Film Edit 1\_ Part 1

#### **FOR WEEK 3**

Assign: Reading: pg. 50-91

To watch: Documentary Editing: Invisibility <https://vimeo.com/232538187>

The Pop In Moment <https://vimeo.com/232537904>

### **Week 3 Constructing Scenes**

Zoom Meeting:<https://depaul.zoom.us/j/91371964137?pwd=YitiYnJ5VjduWVdOZGQ3VG1wMIRXUT09>

Password: 199878

To review: Reading Assignment

Due: Short Film Edit 1\_ Project Creation

Project file only uploaded to D2l Submissions **DUE: by midnight 1/19.**

#### **FOR WEEK 4**

Assign: Short Film Edit 1\_ Part 2\_ rough cut **DUE: by midnight 1/26**

To Watch: Documentary Editing: Verité Dialogue Editing

<https://vimeo.com/232540633>

Documentary Editing: Using Body Language

<https://vimeo.com/302906495>

### **Week 4 Rough Cuts**

Zoom Meeting:<https://depaul.zoom.us/j/91371964137?pwd=YitiYnJ5VjduWVdOZGQ3VG1wMIRXUT09>

Password: 199878

Due: Short Film Edit 1\_ Part 2\_ rough cut **DUE: by midnight 1/26**

Exported file uploaded to Frame.io

To review: Short Film Edit 1\_ Part 2\_ rough cut

#### **FOR WEEK 5**

To Assign: Reading pg.103-135

Short Film 2\_ Project Description to present to class **DUE: by midnight 2/2**

### **Week 5 Refining Scenes**

Zoom Meeting:<https://depaul.zoom.us/j/91371964137?pwd=YitiYnJ5VjduWVdOZGQ3VG1wMIRXUT09>

Password: 199878

To Present: Short Film 2\_ Project Description to present to class

Written description uploaded to D2l Submissions by midnight 2/2.

## FOR WEEK 6

To Assign: Short Film Edit 2\_Project Creation **DUE: by midnight 2/16**  
To Watch: Documentary Editing: Microbeats <https://vimeo.com/232538526>  
Documentary Editing: Working With Pauses <https://vimeo.com/232167770>

### Week 6      **Building the Film**

Zoom Meeting: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/91371964137?pwd=YitiYnJ5VjduWVdOZGQ3VG1wMIRXUT09>  
Password: 199878

## FOR WEEK 7

To Watch: Documentary Editing: Creating Amalgam Scenes  
<https://vimeo.com/285942500>  
Grey Gardens: Constructing a Dialogue Scene Entirely Out of Cutaways  
<https://vimeo.com/280239035>  
Mr. C's Community Is His Family | Charm City  
<https://www.pbs.org/video/charm-city-mr-cs-community-his-family-clip-uub5rw/>  
Hale County This Morning, This Evening  
<https://www.pbs.org/video/hale-county-morning-evening-clip-welu4p/>

### Week 7      **Using the visual vocabulary of fiction in documentary**

Zoom Meeting: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/91371964137?pwd=YitiYnJ5VjduWVdOZGQ3VG1wMIRXUT09>  
Password: 199878

To review: Short Film Edit 2\_Project Creation due by midnight 2/16.  
uploaded to D2I

## FOR WEEK 8

To Assign: Short Film Edit 2\_Rough Cut **DUE: by midnight 3/2.**  
To Watch: "I Was Just a Little Kid" | Rewind  
<https://www.pbs.org/video/i-was-just-little-kid-rewind-lhl8xd/>  
Minding the Gap - Masculinity, Clip 1  
<https://www.pbs.org/video/minding-gap-masculinity-clip-1/>  
Minding the Gap - Financial Anxiety, Clip 2  
<https://www.pbs.org/video/minding-gap-financial-anxiety-clip-2/>  
Editing CAMERAPERSON  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9aGO3BBhdY>  
Kirsten Johnson 'Cameraperson' on The Moral Quandary of Documentary Footage |  
Close Up With THR  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5vo97\\_MNes](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5vo97_MNes)

### Week 8      **What happens when the filmmaker becomes a part of the story?**

Zoom Meeting: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/91371964137?pwd=YitiYnJ5VjduWVdOZGQ3VG1wMIRXUT09>  
Password: 199878

To Review: Short Film Edit 2\_Rough Cuts  
To Assign: Short Film Edit 2\_Fine Cut **DUE: by midnight 3/9.**

### Week 9      **Working with Details**

Zoom Meeting: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/91371964137?pwd=YitiYnJ5VjduWVdOZGQ3VG1wMIRXUT09>  
Password: 199878

To Review: Short Film Edit 2\_Rough Cut Exported file uploaded to Frame.io by midnight 3/2.

## **Week 10 Final Class Screening**

Zoom Meeting: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/91371964137?pwd=YitiYnJ5VjduWVdOZGQ3VG1wMIRXUT09>

Password: 199878

Review: Short Film Edit 2\_Fine Cut due uploaded to frame.io by midnight 3/9.

**Attendance is mandatory.**

### **Grading**

**Please note that late assignments will not be accepted without an explanation.**

**You must submit on time, even if you are not able to come to class on that day.**

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>
<b>Short Film Edit 1</b>	<b>30</b>
Part 1 – Project Set up/First Assembly	15
Part 2 – Rough Cut	15
<b>Short Film Edit 2</b>	<b>40</b>
Project Description	5
Part 1 – Project Set up/First Assembly	10
Part 2 – Rough Cut	15
Part 3 – Fine Cut	10
<b>Peer and Group Feedback and evaluations</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100</b>

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 concepts

---

### **Winter 2021 INFORMATION**

#### **CHANGES TO SYLLABUS**

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. Depending on many variables outside of our control, the assignments projected for the term may require alteration or rescheduling. If a change occurs, it will be posted under Announcements in D2L. Please ensure that campus connect and D2L have your correct email address. Also, make sure you are receiving all notifications via D2L.

#### **UNIVERSITY:**

DePaul University will continue to update their [COVID-19 Updates and Guidance page](#). Please visit that page for the most current information and a list of [university FAQ](#).

## **CDM**

For more specific questions about CDM, check out this page for current info: [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 & CDM.](#)

**TECHNICAL ISSUES** If you're having any tech issues this quarter, please email [scaavsupport@depaul.edu](mailto:scaavsupport@depaul.edu).

## **OUR CLASS**

**THE ZOOM LINK** for class meetings has been emailed to you and is also listed in the syllabus. This link is for the class only. Please do not share this with anyone outside of our class.

### **Course Policies**

In addition to DePaul University course policies (see student handbook), the following special policies will apply to this course.

**Attendance** – Classes will consist of lecture, screenings and discussion. Attendance is mandatory unless otherwise stated.

**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 be 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.

**Plagiarism** – Plagiarism on assignments or cheating on exams are serious offenses and earn the student a failing grade for the class. This course will be subject to the academic integrity policy passed by faculty. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/π>

**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>.