

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course #: DOC 312_412-401 Name: Editing The Documentary
Quarter: Autumn 2021 Wed 1:30-4:45 PM DePaul Center Room C106C

Susanne Suffredin Office: CDM 459

Office Hours: (Zoom) M,W 5-6PM

Email: 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.

Software: Adobe Premiere Pro Creative Cloud. If you are using your own Adobe software, please check with me about which version you're using.

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

Introduction to the course
Screen: Chasing Coral clips

FOR WEEK 2

Download: **Short Film Edit 1 footage (in D2I>Content>Downloads> Short Film Edit 1)**
Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Q3eITC01Fg&feature=youtu.be>
Read: Documentary Editing Part I and II pg.3- 47
In D2I: 12 Video Editing Tips for Cutting a Documentary Workflow

Week 2 Editing Workflows: Where to start

Cover: Organization and Reviewing Footage
Assign: Short Film Edit 1_ Part 1 Project file only uploaded to D2I Submissions **DUE: 9/21 11:59PM**
Review: Reading Assignment

FOR WEEK 3

Read: Book pg. 50-91
Screen: Documentary Editing: Invisibility <https://vimeo.com/232538187>
The Pop In Moment <https://vimeo.com/232537904>

Week 3 Constructing Scenes

Review: Reading Assignment and short videos
Short Film Edit 1_ Part 1 Project file
Assign: Short Film Edit 1_ Part 2 Rough Assembly **DUE 9/28 11:59PM**

FOR WEEK 4

Watch: Documentary Editing: Verité Dialogue Editing
<https://vimeo.com/232540633>
Documentary Editing: Using Body Language
<https://vimeo.com/302906495>

Week 4 Rough Cuts

Review: Short videos
Rough Assemblies
Assign: Short Film Edit 1_ Part 3_rough cut **DUE: 10/5 11:59 PM**

FOR WEEK 5

Read: Book pg.103-135

Week 5 Refining Scenes

Review: Short Film Edit 1_ Part 3_rough cut
Assign: Short Film Edit 2_ Project Creation **DUE 10/12 11:59PM**

FOR WEEK 6

To Watch: Documentary Editing: Microbeats <https://vimeo.com/232538526>
Documentary Editing: Working With Pauses <https://vimeo.com/232167770>

Week 6 Finding The Story

Review: Short Film Edit 2_Project Creation
Short Videos

Assign: Short Film Edit 2_Story Organization **DUE: 10/19 11:59PM**

Screen: 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/>

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>

Week 7 Using the visual vocabulary of fiction in documentary

Review: Short Videos
Story organization

Assign: Short Film Edit 2_Rough Assembly **DUE: 10/26 11:59PM**

Screen: "I Was Just a Little Kid" | Rewind
<https://www.pbs.org/video/i-was-just-little-kid-rewind-lh18xd/>

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

Review: Short Film Edit 2_Rough Assembly

Screen: 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

Assign: Short Film Edit 2_Rough Cut **DUE: 11/9 11:59 PM**

Week 9 Working with Details

Lab Time

Week 10 Final Class Screening

DUE: Short Film Edit 2_Rough Cut

Review: Short Film Edit 2_Rough Cut

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.

PROJECT	TOTAL POINTS
Short Film Edit 1	30
Part 1 Project Creation	10
Part 2 First Assembly	10
Part 3 Rough Cut	10
Short Film Edit 2	40
Part 1 Project Creation	10
Part 2 Story Organization	10
Part 3 Rough Assembly	10
Part 4 Rough Cut	10
Peer and Group Feedback	20
Attendance	10
Total Points	100

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

Autumn 2021 COVID INFORMATION

Keeping our DePaul community safe is of utmost importance in the pandemic.

Students, faculty and staff are expected to:

- (1) wear a mask as required at all times while indoors on campus
- (2) refrain from eating and drinking in classrooms
- (3) keep current with their COVID-19 vaccinations or exemptions
- (4) Stay Home If You Are Sick
- (5) participate in any required COVID-19 testing
- (6) Frequent Hand Washing is recommended
- (7) abide by the City of Chicago Emergency Travel Advisory

The recommendations may change as local, state, and federal guidelines evolve. Students who do not abide by the mask requirement may be subject to the student conduct process and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office. Students who have a medical reason for not complying with any requirements should register with DePaul's Center for Student with Disabilities (CSD).

<https://resources.depaul.edu/coronavirus/resources/covid-19-reporting-protocol/Pages/default.aspx>

CHANGES TO SYLLABUS

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. Depending on the 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.

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/>

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>.