

DOC 396_496 ADVANCED TOPICS IN DOCUMENTARY
Autumn Quarter 2022
Tuesday 10-1:15PM
CDM Center 708 Digital Cinema

Stories from the Archives

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Susanne Suffredin Office: CDM 459
Office Hours: (Zoom) Thursday 1:30-6:00 PM
Email: ssuffre1@depaul.edu
Email will be answered within 24 hours, Saturday emails by Monday

Course Overview and Learning Goals

Course Website D2L

Course Overview

This class will be an in-depth examination of a documentary filmmaker, film movement, production style or technique that has had a significant influence on the development of documentary storytelling and expression. Through lectures, screenings, readings, discussions, and creative assignments, students will analyze the distinctive traits of archivally driven documentaries within the broader context of cinema history and culture and apply them to their own projects.

Learning Goals:

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

- Explore Institutional, Cultural and /or Personal archives for untold story content
- Research and develop ideas based on that exploration
- verbally pitch a compelling idea
- Expand skills in conceptualizing, directing, and editing short archivally driven work

Required Textbook: No required textbook, various readings throughout course will be provided

TECH NEEDS:

Equipment: <https://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Student-Resources/Pages/Equipment-Centers.aspx>

Hard Drive: This class recommends the use of a hard drive. The hard drive capacity should have a minimum of 500gb and run at 7200rpm. USB3, USB-c, Thunderbolt (with adaptor), or FW 800 (with adaptor) connections are recommended.

Software: This class requires the use of Adobe Premiere or other editing software. You will provided an Adobe license for this class.

Week By Week

Week 1 Hopes and Dreams

Introductions
Class fundamentals
Questions and Concerns
Short questionnaire in class to discuss

Watch In class: Finding Vivian Maier

For Week 2:

Assignment 1: Virtual Photo exhibit Analysis at DePaul Museum

https://resources.depaul.edu/newslines/sections/campus-and-community/Pages/dpam-virtual-exhibition-fall-22.aspx?utm_campaign=Daily_08102022&utm_medium=email&utm_source=EOACK

Read: The Limits of lived Experience (in D2I)

Week 2 Unfinished Business

Review: Assignment 1
Reading

To Cover: Assignment 2: Idea Development
First Steps in exploring an archive

Watch: In Class: The Queen Of Basketball
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPFkcoTfr7g>

For Week 3:

Read: How Harmful Is Social Media_ The New Yorker (in D2I)

Due: Assignment 2: Idea Development

Week 3 Lots of Answerable Questions

To Present: Philosophies of Approach: Observer and Storyteller

Review: Assignment 2: Idea Development
Reading

Assign: Assignment 3: Pitch

Watch: In class: Bathtubs Over Broadway

For week 4:

Due: Assignment 3: Pitch

Week 4 Working with Archival

To Present: Working with Archival

Review: Assignment 3: Pitch

Watch: In class: Mylar Balloon
Guest Speaker

Assign: Assignment 4: Research and Production

For Week 5:

Read: Honest Truths: Documentary Filmmakers on Ethical Challenges in Their Work

Week 5 Research and securing the rights

To Present: Fair Use and licensing

Watch: In class: What happened, Miss Simone?

Updates: Research

For week 6:

Due: Assignment 4: Research and Production

Week 6 Finding the Voice

To present: Formatting Archival, practical and esthetics
Finding the Voice

Due: Assignment 4 :Research and Production

To Present: Assignment 4: Research and Production

Watch: In class: Rewind

To Assign: Assignment 5: Rough Assembly

Week 7 Structuring your narrative

To Cover: Story Order, getting to a First Assembly

Watch: In class: Crip Camp

For week 8:

Due: Assignment 5: Rough Assembly

Week 8 Post Production

To Cover: Editing The Archival Documentary

Due: Assignment 5: Rough Assembly

To Present: Assignment 5: Rough Assembly

Assign: Assignment 6: Rough Cut

Week 9 Rough Cut Updates

Watch: In class: Best of Enemies

For Week 10:

Due: Assignment 6: Rough Cut

Week 10 The Future

Due: Assignment 6: Rough Cut

To Present: Assignment 6: Rough Cut

Assignments

Assignments must be completed by the due date as indicated in D2L Submissions. Please note that late assignments will not be accepted without an explanation and prior consent of the instructor.

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

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| Assignment 1 | Exhibit Analysis | 10 |
| Assignment 2 | Idea Development | 10 |
| Assignment 3 | Pitch | 10 |
| Assignment 4 | Research and Production | 10 |
| Assignment 5 | Rough Assembly | 10 |
| Assignment 6 | Rough Cut | 10 |
| Feedback, Discussions and Participation | | 30 |
| Attendance | | 10 |
| Total Points | | 100 |

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

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 indicates unsatisfactory work, and F is a failure to demonstrate an understanding of course concepts.

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 addressed in class and posted under Announcements in D2L. I will send a follow up email as well. 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](#).

TECHNICAL ISSUES If you're having any tech issues this quarter, please email scaavsupport@depaul.edu.

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, feedback and discussion. Attendance is mandatory unless otherwise stated.

Your 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>.

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.

Trigger Warnings The films, lectures, and discussion in this course may engage with potentially sensitive or traumatizing material, such as:

- violence
- sexism
- sexual assault, rape
- racism
- police brutality
- transphobia
- homophobia
- abuse
- suicide
- blood
- and body-shaming

I will note especially graphic/intense content and will do my best to foster a classroom in which we can relate courageously, compassionately, and contemplatively with difficult and important content each week.

If you would like more specific or personalized triggers identified throughout the course (especially ones that are not named above), please e-mail and I will do my level best to flag them.

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>