

Instructor

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 Office Hours: Mon/Tue 11am – 1:00 pm and by appointment.

Course Information

DOC 382 Section 401
 Class Time: Tuesday 1:30 – 4:45pm
 Room: 14 E. Jackson, Rm 214

Course Website

D2L

Course Overview

This course examines the aesthetic and production of personal **and** first-person documentary films. The class trains students to articulate their identities and express personal perspectives that reflect issues in their lives. Students use journal writing, video and audio recording, observational techniques, and other research methods to develop or record inner processes and personal self-reflection. Students develop and structure a short, personal documentary and produce a short final film.

This class is designed to help students identify their personal voices through a variety of techniques, styles and tools of non-traditional documentary filmmaking. Students explore their relationships to their subject matter and express themselves in creative and authentic ways through video. Although the class is process oriented, students are expected to finish a short personal documentary and to develop a proposal for future work.

Goals and Objectives:

By the end of this course, you should be prepared to:

Distinguish between various approaches to personal documentary filmmaking and the filmmakers' intentions and techniques

Explore and analyze first person documentary filmmaking

Introduce the personal documentary work of others and **lead** discussion

Identify, research and shape a personal subject into a documentary

Outline and demonstrate how subject, form and voice reflect your personal choices

Identify your personal interests, explore them internally and **execute** them externally through documentary

Design a proposal for a personal documentary emphasizing your approach

Create a short personal documentary to attach with your proposal.

Requirements and Evaluation

Look at assignment guidelines for detailed breakdown.

PROJECT	TOTAL POINTS
Creative Media Projects	45%
Documentary Proposal	20%
Writing & Presentations	20%
Attendance & Class Participation	15%
Total Points	100%

Letter grades will be based on the minimum percentages of total points earned

A	93%	Excellent
A-	90%	
B+	87%	Very Good
B	83%	
B-	80%	Good
C+	77%	
C	73%	Satisfactory
C-	70%	
D	60%	
F	0%	

Class Format

Class meetings will involve screenings, discussions, hands-on activities, lectures, critique, and presentations. Students should expect to spend 4 to 8 hours per week on outside of class time on course-related work.

TEXT:

The Personal Camera: Subjective Cinema and the Essay Film;
 Laura Rascaroli
 ISBN-10: 1906660123

- **Readings on D2L**

Recommended Texts

- **Directing the Documentary;** Michael Rabiger
 ISBN-10: 0240810899

Required Materials and Equipment

Firewire or USB 3.0 Hard Drive and access to adequate software for editing projects.

Withdrawal and Drop Deadlines Fall Quarter:

September 17	Last day to add classes (11:59pm deadline)
September 24	Last day to drop classes with no penalty Last day to select pass/fail option
September 25	Grades of "W" assigned for classes dropped on or after this day
October 29	Last day to withdraw from classes



I am always very precisely implicated in my films,
not through narcissism but through honesty in my approach.
Agnès Varda

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS	DUE
CREATIVE MEDIA PROJECTS (Individual or team projects)	45%	
Diary (individual)	15%	
Pitch, Synopsis OR Voiceover	5%	Week 2
Fine Cut	10%	Week 4
Final Film (individual)	30%	
Rough cut (10%)		Week 8 & 9
Fine Cut (15%)		Week 10
PERSONAL DOCUMENTARY PROPOSAL	20%	
Ideas – 3 ideas, 3 sentences	5%	Week 3
Pitch, Synopsis and Logline	5%	Week 5
Treatment & Proposal	10%	Week 6
WRITING / PRESENTATIONS (Equal points)	20%	
Turning Point – Timeline & Survey		Week 2
Memory / Photograph		Week 3
Rituals		Week 5
Autobiographical Survey		By Week 5
ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION	15%	
TOTAL	100%	

Week Date	Activities Topics	Assignments Due
1 9/17	Defining documentary forms / modes Introductions - Course, Syllabus and Assignments Modes of Documentary Forms of 'Personal' Documentary Things you will need this quarter In Class Writing Exercise Screen: Various Shorts/Clips	Assign: - Theme/Synopsis/VO (Diary Film) Guidelines on D2L - Turning Point Exercise - Journal: Autobiographical Survey (on D2L) Reading: - Required: Handouts on D2L Other: Rascaroli Ch1, Ch 5 Listen: Podcast Link
2 9/24	Defining first-person and personal documentary Ideas / Development / Process Memory and Recollection In-Class Writing Exercise Stories We Tell: Sarah Polley	Due: - Theme/Synopsis/VO (Diary Film) - Turning Point Assign: 3 one sentence ideas for your personal documentary Memory/Photograph (Guidelines on D2L) Reading: Required: Handouts on D2L Other: Rascaroli Ch 3 Watch: Waltz with Bashir (Ari Folman)
3 10/1	Diary / Notebook Films Proposals / Documentary treatments In Class Writing Exercise Screen: The Gleaners and I: Agnes Varda	Due: - 3 Ideas for a final personal documentary (Upload to D2L) - Memory/Photograph (Guidelines on D2L) Assign: Synopsis Logline (Final Film) - Rituals Reading: Handouts on D2L Other: Rascaroli Ch 6 Listen: Podcast link on D2L Watch: Tarnation (Jonathon Caouette) Sherman's March (Ross McElwee)
4 10/8	SCREEN: DIARY FILMS Attendance Required for film screening and panels. SCREENING:-- Friday, October 11th 5:00pm One Child Nation, Nanfu Wang (Verité Documentary Conference – Director in person)	Due: Diary Films Assign: - Pitch, Synopsis & logline for Final Film Proposal – Final Film, Due Week 6 Reading: Other: Rascaroli Ch 7 Watch: One Child Nation (Nanfu Wang) Friday, October 11th 5:00pm
5 10/15	Pitch - Synopsis and Logline (Final Film) Locations and Situations Framing the narrative / Story and structure Patterns. In Class Writing Exercise Screening: Various Shorts	Due: Synopsis and Logline (Final Film) - Rituals Assign: Proposal Individual Conferences Final Film Rough Cuts due Week 8 Reading: Handouts on D2L Other: Rascaroli Ch 8 Watch: Dear Zachary, A Letter To A Son About His Father (Kurt Kuenne)
6 10/22	Bringing it all together. Screening: TBD (The Ballad of Ramblin' Jack: Aiyana Elliot)	Due: Final Film Proposals Schedule individual conference bw 10/22 – 10/25 Watch: Stevie (Steve James)
7 10/29	Individual Conferences between 10/22-25 Final Films – Updates, Feedback	Individual Conferences // WORK ON FINAL FILM Assign: Rough Cuts
8 11/05	SCREEN Rough Cuts – Group 1	Due: Rough Cuts Assign: Fine Cuts
9 11/12	SCREEN Rough Cuts – Group 2	
10 11/19	Fine Cuts - Everyone	Due: FINAL FILMS Schedule Individual Conferences.
11/ 19-26	Individual Conferences	Due: Updated final films.

Course Policies and Expectations

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

Attendance

Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration. Attendance will be taken and is reflected in the Class Participation and Attendance portion of the course grade. Your active participation and engagement in the class is expected and is required to get credit for this portion of the course grade.

An absence is defined as not showing up for class, or showing up 15 minutes or more late. Any absences, late arrivals or early departures will result in a reduction of the attendance/participation grade.

Excused Absence

In order 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://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/support-services/academic/Pages/default.aspx>. 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.

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. Submit your creative work and any required written paperwork online on D2L on the due date. If you would like to play a higher resolution of your project, bring in a hard drive for class screening. If you choose this option you must still submit a version of the film online.

Late Assignments

Completing assignments on time and having them ready for discussion and critique in class is essential for this class. Thus, to encourage accountability, late assignments will not receive credit unless acceptable reasons are documented (sickness, family emergency) and communicated to me within 24 hours of the due date (before, not after).

Screenings – Film screening 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.

Class Discussion

Student participation in class discussions will be measured in two ways. First, students are highly encouraged to ask questions and offer comments relevant to the day's topic. Participation allows the instructor to "hear" the student's voice when grading papers. Secondly, students will be called upon by the instructor to offer comments related to the reading assignments or the films screened in class. Students

Class Behavior

- Food and drink during class is ok. Clean up after yourself.
- Internet surfing and checking email, etc. during class when your attention is expected is disrespectful and unprofessional. I am asking for your cooperation and attention during class time.
- Be a respectful participant by keeping phones in silent mode and do not text in class. If you have a need to be available by phone (sick relative, etc.), please let me know.

Be engaged in class discussions and workshop activities:

- Participate with enthusiasm
- Show genuine effort to cooperate with others
- Show leadership and take initiative in group efforts
- Frequently and eagerly offer your thoughts, perspectives, and responses to instructor/classmates
- Make contributions that reflect excellent preparation (i.e. complete required reading)

Practice professionalism

- Communicate (face-to-face, emails, etc.) with the professor and fellow students in a professional and appropriate manner.
- Use body language (ex., eyes, posture) that shows active listening during instructor/student presentations
- Be careful not to distract others (socializing, sleeping, leaving early or during class, reading unrelated material, doing homework for another class);
- Be respectful towards others.

Civil Discourse

DePaul University is a community that thrives on open discourse that challenges students, both intellectually and personally, to be socially responsible leaders. It is the expectation that all dialogue in this course is civil and respectful of the dignity of each student. Any instances of disrespect or hostility can 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.

Course Lectures/Reading Assignments: The assigned readings offer an opportunity for independent learning that supplements the lectures. Lectures will introduce material not available in the readings, and the readings will explore concepts not mentioned in class.

Email Policy

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.

On weekdays, you can expect me to return emails within 24 hours. Expect a delayed response on weekends. In the spirit of practicing professional communication, make an effort to write email messages in a more formal, professional tone (e.g., proper greeting, correct spelling, etc.).

Academic Integrity & Plagiarism

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

Syllabus or Content Changes

Depending on time factors and guest artist opportunities, the assignments projected for the term may require slight alteration or

must keep up with the reading to participate in class discussion.

Equipment Use Policies

Policies for checking out equipment and reserving the CDM “Stage” are posted on the D2L Course website.

Incomplete Grades

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.

Visit the Writing Center

Consider visiting the Writing Center to discuss your written assignments for this course. Writing Center Tutors are specially trained undergraduate and graduate students who can help you at any stage of your writing project. They can help you focus and develop your ideas, review your drafts, and polish your writing, as well as answer questions about grammar, mechanics, style, and citation. You may schedule appointments on an as-needed or weekly basis. In addition to Face-to-Face appointments, the Writing Center also provides written feedback by email and online appointments. Be sure to schedule your appointment with enough time to think about and incorporate the feedback you’ll receive. Bring/upload your assignment handout and/or any other relevant materials to your appointment. To schedule a Face-to-Face, Written Feedback by Email, or Online Appointment, visit www.depaul.edu/writing. You can also call one of our offices: (312) 362-6726 (Loop Office, 1600 Lewis Center) or (773) 325-4272 (LPC Office, 250 McGaw Hall). When possible, the Writing Center accepts walk-in requests, but it’s always a good idea to schedule your appointment ahead of time. You may schedule tutorials on an as-needed basis or as weekly standing appointments up to 3 hours per week. All Writing Center services are free to the DePaul community.

rescheduling.

Resources for Students with Disabilities

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at: csd@depaul.edu.
Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.
Phone number: (312) 362-8002
Fax: (312) 362-6544
TTY: (773) 325-7296

Additional Accommodations

This course includes instructional content delivered via audio and video. If you have any concerns about your ability to access and/or understand this material in its default format, please notify me within the first week of the course so accommodations can be made.

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. Students complete the evaluation online at <https://mycti.cti.depaul.edu/mycti>

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