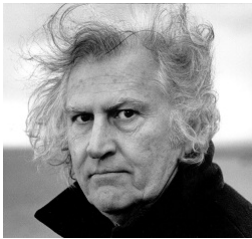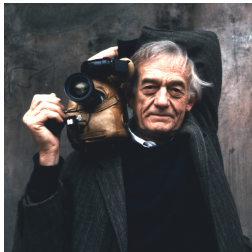**DC 471 Documentary Production**
Winter Quarter 2016
Tuesday 1:30 – 4:45pm
CDM 708

Anuradha Rana
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Email: arana2@cdm.depaul.edu
Phone: 312-362-5371 | 773-474-3736 (text!)
Office Hours: Thursday 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

We realized that the important thing was not the film itself
but that which the film provoked.

Fernando Solanas
La Hora de Los Hornos (The hour of the furnaces)

My obsession has been — and is still — the feeling of being there.
Not of finding out this and analyzing this or performing some virtuous social act
or something. Just what's it like to be there

Richard Leacock
Drew Associates

I've always been interested in how people think, how they react to
challenges in their lives - what makes people tick. I've also always been
passionate about social issues and causes, and I wanted to make films that
addressed important issues in very human terms.

Barbara Kopple
Harlan County USA

Reality is a superficial layer and what we should be looking out for is a deep strata of truth.
I've always been after what I call an ecstatic truth.

Werner Herzog

Documentary film is traditionally perceived to be the hybrid offspring of a perennial
struggle between the forces of objectivity (represented by the 'documents' or facts
that underpin it) and the forces of subjectivity (that is the translation of those
facts into representational form)

Stella Bruzzi
New Documentary

Course Overview and Learning Goals

This course will explore the documentary filmmaking process by viewing a wide range of documentary films and discussing their attributes. Students will produce two documentary exercises in teams of three to develop skills in conceptualizing, directing and editing various styles of documentary films. Students will work towards one short documentary film (individual or in teams of two) over the course of the quarter and create a proposal for this film.

Students will learn interview techniques (both formal interviews and on-the run/"vox populi" interviews), techniques for visualizing and shooting "b roll" footage, and how to construct narratives and stories through the integration of sound and images. Emphasis will be placed on developing proficiencies in hand-held cinematography, location sound recording, and editing. Finally, through screening and discussing a variety of historically significant documentary films, students will learn to define their own personal directorial approach to documentary filmmaking. PREREQUISITES: DC 210 and DC 220 or equivalents.

Required Text

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

Recommended Texts

Bernard, Sheila Curran. *Documentary Storytelling: Making Stronger and More Dramatic Nonfiction Films*. Boston: Focal Press, 2007.
Bernard, Sheila and Ken Rabin. *Archival Storytelling: A Documentary Filmmaker's Guide to Finding, Using, and Licensing Third-Party Visuals and Music*. Boston: Focal Press, 2008.

Required Materials and Equipment

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

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, discussion, and creative exercises. Attendance is mandatory. 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.

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. Bring a playable DVD and a hard copy of any required written paperwork to class on the due date. Post on COL as well. 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 also bring in a playable DVD for grading purposes. **DVD's should be labeled with title, assignment, crew names and running time.**

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.

Crew Responsibilities – You will form production groups of three at the beginning of the quarter and remain with that group for the duration of the quarter. Each person in the group will rotate through the major creative roles as producer/director, camera operator/shooting sound and editor for each assignment. You are expected to participate in all aspects of the production/post process for each project. Peer feedback will be assessed at the end of each assignment and will be counted toward the participation grade.

Equipment Use Policies – Policies for checking out equipment and reserving the CDM "Stage" are posted on the D2L Course website. A list of equipment used in this class is also provided

Plagiarism – Plagiarism on assignments or cheating on exams are serious offenses and earn the student a failing grade for the class. Please read the Academic Integrity Policy (AIP) at http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/handbook/code16.html.

Syllabus or Content Changes – Depending on time factors and guest artist opportunities, the assignments projected for the term may require slight alteration or rescheduling.

<u>**Grading**</u>
Look at assignment guidelines for detailed breakdown.

PROJECT	TOTAL POINTS
#1 Vox Pop	15
#2 Event Unfolding	20
#3 Documentary PORTRAIT	50
Scenes and Proposal	
Attendance and contribution	15
Total Points	**100**
Extra Credit *	5

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.

<u>**Course Outline**</u>

Week 1
1/5	Topic:	Intro, organization, assignments, groups.
		Brief history of documentary,
		Camera and Sound overview.

	Screening:	Various Clips / Shorts
	Reading:	Rabiger Part 2, Ch 5 and Part 4, Ch 9-11.
	Assign:	*Vox Populi* - On the street interviews (groups)
		Two ideas for Documentary Assignment - PORTRAIT (individuals)

Week 2
1/12	**Due:**	**Ideas for Portrait**
	Topic:	Overview of documentary styles/forms
		Proposal writing for Documentaries.

| | Screening: | Various Clips / Shorts |
| | Reading: | Rabiger Part 3 Ch 8; Part 4 Ch 12, pp. 195-203. |

Week 3
1/26	Due:	***Vox Pop* screening and critique**
	Topic:	Interviews
	Screening:	Various Clips/Shorts.
	Reading:	Rabiger Part 3 Ch 7.
	Assign:	Groups for 'Event Unfolding'
		Pitch ideas for Final Documentary Assignment - PORTRAIT.

Week 4

1/17	**Due:**	Pitch ideas for "Portrait" (individually) and submit outline
	Assign:	*Event Unfolding*
		Groups for final film – Portrait

Week 5

2/2	Due:	Pitch Final Film ideas (Groups)
	Topic:	Visualizing the Documentary
	Reading:	Rabiger Part 1, Chapters. 1-4, pp. 1-64 & Part 2, Chapter 6, pp. 99-117.
	Assign:	Edited version of *Event Unfolding*

Week 6

2/9	Due Screening:	**Events Unfolding**
	Topic:	Editing the Documentary
	Reading:	Rabiger Part 5, Chapters 13-15, pp. 207-253.
	Assign:	Proposal - Portrait

Week 7

2/16	Due:	Proposal for Documentary Assignment #3
		Group/Individual Conference - Status updates on Final documentary.
	Reading:	Rabiger Part 6, Chapters 17-20.
	Assign:	Scene – Portrait / Interview for final film

Week 8

2/23		Styles/Modes review
		Structuring a narrative
	Screening:	TBD

Week 9

3/1	Screening:	Scene – Portrait / Interview

Week 10

3/8	Screening:	Rough Cut and Critique - Documentary Portrait

Week 11 3/15 2:45 5:00

	SCREENING :	**Final projects – Documentary Portrait**
		Attendance is mandatory. An absence = A grade of 'F' for the class.

<u>**School Policies**</u>

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

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.