

**DC 371/471 Documentary Production II**  
**Winter Quarter 2019**  
**Wednesday 5:45pm – 9:00pm**  
CDM 924

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

Instructor: Dana Kupper Office: CDM 460

Phone: 312-362-1304 Office Hours: 3:45pm – 5:45pm Wednesday (Appointments are best.)

Email: [dkupper@depaul.edu](mailto:dkupper@depaul.edu)

01/09/2019

---

**Course Overview and Learning Goals**

**Course Website**

D2L

**Course Overview**

This hands-on course builds on skills learned in DC 289. Students will work in groups to produce, direct, and edit a short subject documentary over the course of the quarter. Students will be exposed to all stages of the documentary filmmaking process including potential for public exhibition, festival acceptance, and/or as a fundraising tool for a long-form project.

**Learning Goals**

- create a short documentary, working in crews of 3-4, and participate in other exercises over the quarter.
- develop skills in conceptualizing, directing and editing a short documentary film.
- understand and incorporate interview techniques (both formal interviews and on-the run/"vox populi" interviews), techniques for visualizing and shooting observational footage, and construct narratives through the integration of sound and images.
- define their own personal directorial approach to documentary filmmaking, through screening and discussing a variety of documentary films.

-PREREQUISITE(S): DC 289

**Required Text**

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

**Required Materials and Equipment** Firewire or USB 3.0 Hard Drive and access to adequate software for editing projects.

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

PROJECT	TOTAL POINTS
#1 Interview project	20
#2 Documentary PORTRAIT	50
Pitch	5
Pre-production Package	10
Scene #1 – Event Unfolding	10
Scene #2 – Interview or Observation	10
Rough Cut	5
Fine Cut	10
#3 Documentary Idea	10
#4 Documentary Review and Recommendation	5
Participation	15
Attendance	5
In Class Assignments	5
Self and Group Evaluations	5
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

---

### **Class 1 1/9 Intro to class, assignments, groups**

- Getting to know each other  
Documentary today: Various forms and categories  
Screening: Various Clips: Louis Theroux "The Most Hated Family in America"  
Amar (all great achievements require time)  
Portrait film examples  
Assign: Documentary Review/Presentations (dates assigned)  
***Interview with a different POV*** – (groups) **DUE: 2/6**  
Idea for Documentary PORTRAIT (individual or organization) **DUE: 1/23**  
Reading: Rabiger: Sound: 141-160 Advanced Sound: 417-426  
Conducting and Shooting Interviews 449-467

### **Class 2 1/16 Interview Techniques and Sound Kits**

- Discuss and practice interview techniques  
Interviews – preparing and research  
Sound overview  
Exercise: Sound recording techniques / Practice interviews  
Review:  
Reading: Rabiger: Developing Story Ideas 97-136  
Chapter 18: Story Structure 279-319

### **Class 3 1/23 Interview with Camera**

- Review: Documentary reviews/recommendations  
Camera tips for shooting interviews  
Review: Interview with a Different POV ideas

Due:	<b>Ideas for Portraits</b>
------	----------------------------

- Written ideas presented in class** Final Portrait ideas decided on  
Reading: Rabiger: Camera: 173-197  
Directing 199-203

### **Class 4 1/30 Interview with a different POV screening and critique**

Due/SCREEN:	Different POV Interview
-------------	-------------------------

- Review: Documentary reviews/recommendations  
Production Checklists (posted in D2L)  
Assign: Documentary Portrait groups and ideas / First brainstorming session  
Introduce: Pre-production Package for Documentary  
Reading: As Assigned on D2L

### **Class 5 2/6 Verité Techniques and Tech**

- Review: Documentary reviews/recommendations  
Camera and Sound tips for capturing Verité footage  
Assign: Documentary Idea Paper assigned  
Introduce: Story Structure and Storytelling techniques  
Exercise: Watch Examples and dissect structure  
Reading: As Assigned on D2L  
Review: Pre-Production package

**Class 6 2/13 Group/Individual Presentations**

Review: Documentary reviews/recommendations  
How to capture a scene  
Screen: Scene/verité examples  
I Am Another You (1 of 3)

Due:	Pre-production Package for Documentary Assignment #3
Present:	<b>Pre-production package and provide status updates on final documentary Portrait.</b>

Assign: Scene #1 Events Unfolding  
Reading: As Assigned on D2L

**Class 7 2/20 Editing – Organizing footage, Transcription and Logging**

Due/SCREEN:	Part 1: Events Unfolding -- Portrait Film
-------------	---

Review: Documentary reviews/recommendations  
Organizing footage and logging for documentaries  
Documentary Ethics  
Screen: I Am Another You (2 of 3)  
Assign: Part 2: Interview  
Reading: Editing Part 5, Chapters 14 and 15, pp. 211-240.

**Class 8 2/27 Structuring a narrative**

Review: Documentary Reviews/recommendations  
Integrating interview and observational scenes, building a flow  
Screen: I Am Another You (3 of 3)

Due/SCREEN:	Part 2: Cut Interview - Portrait Film
-------------	---------------------------------------

Reading: As Assigned on D2L

**Class 9 3/6 The first rough assembly**

Due/SCREEN:	Rough Cut – Portrait Film
-------------	---------------------------

Review: Documentary Reviews/recommendations  
Post Production in Documentary  
Making the cut coherent and manageable  
Length  
Assembly to rough cut to fine cut

Due:	Documentary Idea Papers due
------	-----------------------------

Reading: As Assigned on D2L

**Class 10 3/13 Final Cut Screening!**

Due/SCREEN:	Final projects – Documentary Portrait. Screen Final Exported cuts
-------------	---

Review: Final Film Critiques  
Documentary Careers

**3/20 Finals week – no class**

## Changes to Syllabus

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

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

**If a change occurs, it will be addressed during class or posted under Announcements in D2L.**

## DePaul CDM Important Dates •

### Add/Drop Deadlines:

01/11/2019 Last day to add (or swap) classes to SQ schedule (**11:59pm deadline**)

### Withdraw Deadlines:

01/18/2019 Last day to drop classes with no penalty (100% tuition refund if applicable and no grade on transcript)

01/18/2019 Last day to select pass/fail option

01/19/2019 Grades of "W" assigned for SQ2018 classes dropped on or after this day

01/21/2019 Martin Luther King Day – University Officially Closed

02/07/2019 Begin Spring and Summer 2019 Registration

02/22/2019 Last day to withdraw from AQ classes

**Your final project is due 3/17/2019 @ 5:45pm**

## 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. Exported files of projects should have a slate **labeled with title, assignment, crew names and running time.**

**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 being 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 at 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.

## School Policies

**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.

**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.