

**DOC 224 -401 Documentary Production**  
**Fall Quarter 2019**  
**Wednesday 1:30 – 4:45pm**  
 14 E. Jackson Room 504

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

REVISION DATE: 09/10/19

Instructor: Dana Kupper (she/her) Office: CDM 460 Office Hours: 11:30-1:30 Wednesday

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Email: [dkupper@depaul.edu](mailto:dkupper@depaul.edu) (If urgent, text me ^, otherwise emails returned by the next day)

**Course Overview and Learning Goals**

**Course Website**

D2L

**Course Overview**

This course will explore the documentary filmmaking process by viewing a range of documentary films and discussing them in class. Students will also:

**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.
- PREREQUISITES: DC 210 and DC 220 or equivalent.

**Required Text:** Introduction to Documentary, Third Edition B. Nichols ISBN: 9780253026903

**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
<b>#1 Vox Pop</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>#2 Interview with a different POV</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>#3 Short Documentary – This is What They Love</b>	<b>25</b>
<i>Pitch</i>	5
<i>Pre-production Package</i>	5
<i>Rough Cut</i>	5
<i>Fine Cut</i>	10
<b>#4 Doc to Watch</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>#5 Documentary Idea</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>#6 Participation</b>	<b>30</b>
<i>Attendance</i>	10
<i>In Class Assignments</i>	15
<i>Self and Group Evaluations</i>	5
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100</b>

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

### **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:**

09/17/2019 Last day to add (or swap) classes to FQ2019 schedule (**11:59pm deadline**)

#### **Withdraw Deadlines & Important Dates:**

09/24/2019 Last day to drop classes with no penalty (100% tuition refund if applicable and no grade on transcript)

09/24/2019 Last day to select pass/fail option

10/29/2019 Last day to withdraw from FQ classes

### **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.

**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>

**Emergency Plan.** An emergency can occur at any time, suddenly and without warning. Proper planning is essential to minimize the impact of any emergency on the university community, operations and facilities. The following link provides detailed information on Emergency Evacuation and Fire Alarm safety: <https://resources.depaul.edu/emergency-plan/emergency-evacuation/Pages/Evacuation.aspx>. The University will use the DPU Alert to announce school closing or other emergencies. In the event of an emergency evacuation, the primary outdoor assembly area for CDM will be Grant Park (Southeast corner of Jackson and Michigan Ave).

## Schedule for Documentary Production Fall 2019

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Assign</b>	<b>In Class</b>	<b>Watch</b>	<b>To Read in Textbook</b>	<b>Due</b>
1	09/11	Introduction to the course and each other Crew Roles Vox Populi “On The Street” Interviews Meet in groups to discuss “Vox Populi” project	3 Docs to watch time slot  Vox Populi and groups		“Amar (all great achievements require time)”	<b>Chapter 1</b> “How Can We Define Documentary Film?”	
2	09/18	Sound Types of Docs - Storytelling through the documentary form		Work with sound kits		<b>Chapter 6</b> “How Can We Differentiate Among Documentary Models and Modes?”	
3	09/25	Camera		Work with cameras	“Vox Populi” Edits	<b>Chapter 7</b> “How Can We Describe the Observational, Participatory, and Performative Modes?”	3 Docs to watch* “Vox Populi” edit
4	10/02	Interview camera tips Meet in groups to discuss “Interview with a Different POV” project	Interview with a different POV		“The Most Hated Family in America”	<b>Chapter 2</b> “Why Are Ethical Issues Central to Documentary Filmmaking?”	3 Docs to watch*
5	10/09	How to shoot a scene – Verité B roll Camera	Paper for ‘dream doc’	Shooting Verité		<b>Chapter 10</b> “I Want to Make a Documentary, Where Do I Start?”	3 Docs to watch*
6	10/16	Watch “Interviews” How to plan for shooting – Pre Pro packet Developing Story Ideas	“This is What They Love” Final Film		Interview with a different POV  “I Am Another You” Part 1	<b>Chapter 3</b> “What Gives Documentaries a Voice of Their Own?”	3 Docs to watch* “Interview with a different POV”
7	10/23	Break down the structure of a short doc Organizing footage, transcription and logging Editing the doc		Break down the structure of a short doc	“I Am Another You” Part 2	<b>Chapter 4</b> “What Makes Documentary Filmmaking Engaging and Persuasive?”	3 Docs to watch*
8	10/30	Footage and brainstorming on Final project Dream doc discussion			Footage/Cut “This is What They Love” “I Am Another You” Part 3	<b>Chapter 8</b> “How Have Documentaries Addressed Social and Political Issues?”	3 Docs to watch*
9	11/06	Field Trip – Kartemquin Films					Rough cut: “This is What They Love” ‘Dream Doc’ Paper
10	11/13	Final films			“This is What They Love” Final Edit		“This is What They Love” Final Edit
11	11/20	NO CLASS					

\* Docs to watch assignment: You will only be responsible for one doc during the quarter, I will give you your assigned week.