

**DOC 224-402 Documentary Production I**  
**Autumn Quarter 2020**  
**Monday 1:30-4:45**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

Instructor: Susanne Suffredin Office: Remote

Office Hours: (or by email appointment other times) Monday and Wednesday 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM

Email: [ssuffre1@depaul.edu](mailto:ssuffre1@depaul.edu) (best way to reach me)

Email will be answered within 24 hours; Saturday emails by Monday

**Course Overview and Learning Goals**

**Course Website** D2L

**Course Overview**

This introductory course will explore documentary styles and techniques and through modified assignments that use a wide variety of modes and formats you will be creating three short pieces along with writing and pitching an idea for a doc you would like to make. I will work to maintain the workshop atmosphere as best I can using Zoom sessions and scheduling individual feedback sessions with each of you at various points throughout the quarter. Also, we should anticipate that changes may need to be made as the quarter unfolds. Those changes will be communicated as timely as possible and I ask that we all stay flexible and responsive.

**Learning Goals:**

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

- verbally pitch a compelling idea
- develop skills in conceptualizing, directing and editing short documentary pieces.
- understand and incorporate interview techniques, visualizing and shooting observational footage, and construct narratives through the integration of sound and images.

- PREREQUISITES: **FILM 110 OR FILM 111 OR FILM 102** or equivalent.

**Required Textbook**

Our textbook for the quarter is: Introduction to Documentary, Third Edition by: Bill Nichols

It is available online through the DePaul library.

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/depaul/detail.action?docID=4813367&pq-origsite=primo>

**TECH NEEDS:**

This class requires the use of computer hardware, software, and equipment to meet the learning outcomes of the class. CDM is still working on access to camera equipment from the equipment centers, **Adobe** licenses and labs. I hope to have answers for you soon, hopefully no later than the start of class. You can check the CDM website for updates.

**Equipment:**

**Phone:** This class requires the use of a phone with photo/video capabilities or a **camera**. You may use any camera and audio equipment that you possess. If you can get access to the equipment centers, you can check out camera and sound equipment for this course.

**Computer:** This class requires use of a computer that can handle editing software.

**Hard Drive:** This class requires 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. USB 2 connections are not recommended.

**Software:** This class requires the use of Adobe Premiere or other editing software.

The following link contains instructions for you to access Adobe CC for fall quarter for free.

[https://depaul.service-now.com/sp?id=kb\\_article\\_view&sysparm\\_article=KB0010764](https://depaul.service-now.com/sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0010764)

You must use your **@depaul.edu** email addresses to sign up.

Here is a link to BlueM@il Student Email and University Communications about signing up for BlueM@il.

[https://depaul.service-](https://depaul.service-now.com/sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0010864&sys_kb_id=6a2029991bcbd01022e20dc8cc4bcb93&spa=)

[now.com/sp?id=kb\\_article\\_view&sysparm\\_article=KB0010864&sys\\_kb\\_id=6a2029991bcbd01022e20dc8cc4bcb93&spa=](https://depaul.service-now.com/sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0010864&sys_kb_id=6a2029991bcbd01022e20dc8cc4bcb93&spa=)

## Assignments

Please note that late assignments will not be accepted without an explanation.

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

<b>Assignment 1: Vox Pop Interview</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Assignment 2: Day in the Life Project</b>	<b>30</b>
DITL Pitch and Pre-Production Package	10
DITL Exported File	20
<b>Assignment 3: Archival Interview Project</b>	<b>30</b>
Archival Interview Pitch and Pre-Production Package	10
Archival Interview Project Exported File	20
<b>Participation</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100</b>

**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 (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 concept

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### **Week 1**      **Intro to class, assignments, structure**

ZOOM Meeting: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/99875157578?pwd=cElCM1NZMHVScHZFeDVGOUUrVk56QT09>

Password: 748053

Introductions

Class fundamentals

Assignments

Equipment

Regular meetings

Questions and Concerns

#### **For Week 2:**

To Watch: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QMljSnt\\_E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QMljSnt_E) Ten Meter Tower | NYT Op-Docs

Answer Questions in Discussion Forum

To Read: Chapter 1 How Can We Define Documentary Film? Pg. 1-28

Article (Also Posted in News) Create Free Account to read

[https://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/29/books/review/who-gets-to-tell-other-peoples-stories.html?mcubz=3&\\_r=1](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/29/books/review/who-gets-to-tell-other-peoples-stories.html?mcubz=3&_r=1)

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### **Week 2**      **The Nature of Documentary**

ZOOM Meeting: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/99875157578?pwd=cElCM1NZMHVScHZFeDVGOUUrVk56QT09>

Password: 748053

Review: Readings and Short Doc

Introduce: Interview Techniques

Assign: Assignment 1: Vox Pop Interview

Create Teams and Pitch to class

#### **For Week 3:**

To Present: Vox Pop Interview Edited Interview Posted to D2L by midnight 9/27

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### **Week 3**      **Interviews**

ZOOM Meeting: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/99875157578?pwd=cElCM1NZMHVScHZFeDVGOUUrVk56QT09>

Password: 748053

Review: Edited Vox Pop Interviews

#### **For Week 4:**

To Watch: <https://vimeo.com/292537862> My Dead Dad's Porno Tapes

To Do: Answer Questions in Discussion Forum

To Read: Chapters 2 and 3 pg.29-68

**Week 4      What Gives Documentaries a Voice of Their Own?**

ZOOM Meeting: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/99875157578?pwd=cElCM1NZMHVScHZFeDVGOUUrVk56QT09>  
Password: 748053  
Review: Readings and Short Doc  
Assign: Assignment 2: Day in the Life  
Create Teams and work on Pitch

**For Week 5:**

To Watch: <https://imgur.com/gallery/cuelQ> **Day In the Life**  
<https://vimeo.com/305536036> **Baby Brother**  
Answer Questions in Discussion Forum  
To Read: Chapters 6 and 7 pgs. 104-158  
To Do: Complete Pitch and Pre-Production Package\_DITL Post to D2I by midnight 10/11

**Week 5      Philosophies of Approach**

ZOOM Meeting: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/99875157578?pwd=cElCM1NZMHVScHZFeDVGOUUrVk56QT09>  
Password: 748053  
Review: Reading and Short Doc  
Present: Day in the Life Pitches  
**Individual Meetings This Week**

**For Week 6:**

To Watch: <https://www.nytimes.com/video/opinion/100000005676963/arctic-boyhood.html> **Artic Boyhood**  
Answer Questions in Discussion Forum  
To Do: Finish and Post Day in The Life Project Post to D2L by midnight 10/18

**Week 6      Presentations**

ZOOM Meeting: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/99875157578?pwd=cElCM1NZMHVScHZFeDVGOUUrVk56QT09>  
Password: 748053  
Present: Assignment 2: Day in the Life

**For Week 7:**

To Watch: PP Developing Story Ideas - Recorded Lecture  
<http://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/packages/html/nyregion/1-in-8-million/index.html?>  
**One In 8 Million**

**Week 7      Structuring a narrative**

ZOOM Meeting: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/99875157578?pwd=cElCM1NZMHVScHZFeDVGOUUrVk56QT09>  
Password: 748053  
Assign: Assignment 3: Archival/ Interview  
Create Teams and work on Pitch

**For Week 8:**

To Do: Complete Pitch and Pre-Production Package\_Archival Interview Post to D2I by midnight 10/25

**Week 8      Working with Archival and structuring your narrative**

ZOOM Meeting: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/99875157578?pwd=cElCM1NZMHVScHZFeDVGOUUrVk56QT09>  
Password: 748053  
Review: Working with Archival and structuring your narrative  
Present: Pitch and Pre-Production Package\_Archival Interview

**For Week 9:**

To Read: Chapter 8 pgs. 159-193  
To Watch: PP Organizing footage for editing - Recorded Lecture

## **Week 9 Post Production in Documentary**

ZOOM Meeting: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/99875157578?pwd=cElCM1NZMHVScHZFeDVGOUUrVk56QT09>  
Password: 748053  
Review: Reading  
Editing  
Work on Assignment 3: Archival/ Interview

## **Week 10 Last Class: Presentations**

ZOOM Meeting: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/99875157578?pwd=cElCM1NZMHVScHZFeDVGOUUrVk56QT09>  
Password: 748053  
Present: Assignment 3: Archival/ Interview  
Finish and Post Archival/ Interview Post to D2L by midnight 11/15

## **FALL 2020 INFORMATION**

### **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 posted under Announcements in D2L. 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 about COVID-19 & CDM](#).

**TECHNICAL ISSUES** If you're having any tech issues this quarter, please email [scaavsupport@depaul.edu](mailto:scaavsupport@depaul.edu).

### **OUR CLASS**

**THE ZOOM LINK** for class meetings has been emailed to you and is also listed in the syllabus. This link is for the class only. Please do not share this with anyone outside of our class.

### **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 and discussion. Attendance is mandatory unless otherwise stated.

**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.

**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.

**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/r>

**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>.