

DOC 224-401 Documentary Production I
Autumn Quarter 2021
Monday 1:30-4:45 PM 14 E Jackson Room 507

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Susanne Suffredin Office: CDM 459
Office Hours: (email to schedule) Zoom M, W 5-6 PM

Email: 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 using a variety of modes and formats. You will create two short pieces along with writing and pitching your ideas to the class. I will work to maintain the workshop atmosphere as best I can using our Zoom sessions. 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:

Equipment: <https://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Student-Resources/Pages/Equipment-Centers.aspx>

Computer: This class requires use of a computer that can handle editing software. Here is a link to the Laptop Loaner Program if you need assistance. <https://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Student-Resources/Pages/Equipment-Centers.aspx>

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.

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

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.

Assignment 1: Day in the Life Project

Part 1_DITL Pitch and Pre-Production Package	15
Part 2_DITL Exported File	15

Assignment 2: Archival Interview Project

Part 1_Archival Interview Pitch and Pre-Production Package	15
Part 2_Archival Interview Exported File	15

Feedback, Discussions and Participation	30
Attendance	10
Total Points	100

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, B indicates good work, C indicates satisfactory work, D indicates unsatisfactory work, and F is a failure to demonstrate an understanding of course concepts.

Week 1 Intro to class, assignments, structure

Introductions
 Class fundamentals
 Assignments
 Equipment
 Questions and Concerns

For Week 2

To Answer and return:

Questionnaire
 Post to D2L>Submissions>Questionnaire **DUE: 9/17 11:59 PM**

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

Week 2 The Nature of Documentary

Watch: <https://www.hbo.com/how-to-with-john-wilson/season-1>
<https://www.hbo.com/watch-free-episodes>

Review: Readings and How to with John Wilson

Introduce: Pitching Ideas/ Creating a Pitch Deck
 DP-10_Criteria for a good pitch

Assign: Assignment 1 Part 1: Pitch Deck
 Uploaded to D2L>Submissions>Assignment 1 Pitch Deck **DUE: 9/26 11:59 PM**
 Create Teams
 Brainstorm ideas in small groups
 Pitch Deck Presentation to class 9/27

Week 3 What is the Story?

Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QMljSnt_E Ten Meter Tower | NYT Op-Docs
Review: Ten Meter Tower
Present: Assignment 1 Part 1: Give Pitch Presentations to class
Teams break into Groups to discuss next steps

For Week 4:

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

Week 4 Philosophies of Approach

Watch: <https://vimeo.com/305536036> Baby Brother
Review: Reading and Short Doc
Update: Teams each give verbal update on Assignment 1

For Week 5:

To Read: Chapters 6 and 7 pgs. 104-158 Chapter 10 pg. 209-222
Finish: **Assignment 1 Exported file uploaded to D2l DUE: 10/10 11:59 PM**

Week 5 Verite

Review: Reading
Assignment 1: Day In the Life Class Presentations and feedback

For Week 6:

To Do: Group Feedback on Assignment 1 Teams
Post Group Feedback to D2l>Submissions>Group Feedback **DUE: 10/15 11:59 PM**

Week 6 What Gives Documentaries a Voice of Their Own?

Watch: <https://www.nytimes.com/video/opinion/100000005676963/arctic-boyhood.html>
Arctic Boyhood
Assign: Assignment 2: Archival + Voice Part 1: Idea, Pitch and Pitch Deck
Uploaded to D2l>Submissions>Assignment 2 Pitch Deck **DUE: 10/31 11:59 PM**

Week 7 Working with Archival and structuring your narrative

Watch: <https://vimeo.com/292537862> My Dead Dad's Porno Tapes
Present: Working with Archival

Week 8 Post Production in Documentary

Present: Present Pitch for Assignment 2
Introduce: Doc Editing

For Week 9:

To Watch: Assort. videos in D2l
To Read: Chapter 8 pgs. 159-193

Week 9 Addressing Social and Political Issues in Documentaries

Review: Reading and short editing videos
 Work on Assignment 2

Week 10 Final Class

To Do: Upload Assignment 2 Exported file to D2L **DUE: 11/14 11:59 PM**
 Assignment 2: Class Presentations and feedback

Autumn 2021 INFORMATION

COVID

Keeping our DePaul community safe is of utmost importance in the pandemic. Students, faculty and staff are expected to:

- (1) wear a mask as required at all times while indoors on campus
- (2) refrain from eating and drinking in classrooms
- (3) keep current with their COVID-19 vaccinations or exemptions
- (4) Stay Home If You Are Sick
- (5) participate in any required COVID-19 testing
- (6) Frequent Hand Washing is recommended
- (7) abide by the City of Chicago Emergency Travel Advisory

The recommendations may change as local, state, and federal guidelines evolve. Students who do not abide by the mask requirement may be subject to the student conduct process and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office. Students who have a medical reason for not complying with any requirements should register with DePaul's Center for Student with Disabilities (CSD).

<https://resources.depaul.edu/coronavirus/resources/covid-19-reporting-protocol/Pages/default.aspx>

CHANGES TO SYLLABUS

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

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/>

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>.