

DOC 414-901 Intro To Documentary Production
Spring Quarter 2021
Tuesday 5:45-9 PM

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Susanne Suffredin Office: Remote
Office Hours: (email to schedule) Wednesday 3-6PM

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: 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. <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.

Frame.io: You will be provided frame.io licenses for the quarter. You will be receiving an email that invites you to join frame.io. Keep a look out for it, it sometimes goes to your spam folder.

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

DITL Pitch and Pre-Production Package	10
Production Update	5
DITL Exported File	15

Assignment 2: Archival Interview Project

Archival Interview Pitch and Pre-Production Package	10
Production Update	5
Archival Interview Exported File	15

Feedback in frame.io and class **20**

Discussion Questions and written responses in D2L **10**

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
Regular meetings
Questions and Concerns

For Week 2:

To Answer and return:

Questionnaire
Post to D2L>Submissions>Questionnaire by Sunday 4/4/21

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

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

Review: Readings and How to with John Wilson

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

Assign: Assignment 1: Day in the Life / Create Teams
Part 1: Idea, Pitch and Pitch Deck
Brainstorm ideas in small groups

For Week 3:

DUE: Assignment 1 Part 1: Pitch Deck Presentation to class
Uploaded to D2L>Submissions>Assignment 1 Pitch Deck by midnight 4/12/21

To Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QMljSnt_E **Ten Meter Tower | NYT Op-Docs**

To Do: Answer Questions in D2L Discussion Forum by midnight 4/11/21

Week 3 Interview Techniques

Review: Ten Meter Tower

To Do: Assignment 1 Part 1: Give Pitch Presentations to class
Teams break into Groups to discuss next steps

For Week 4:

To Watch: <https://vimeo.com/305536036> **Baby Brother**
Answer Questions in Discussion Forum by midnight 4/18/21

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

Week 4 Philosophies of Approach

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

To Do: **Finish Assignment 1 Exported file uploaded to frame.io by midnight 4/26/21**

Week 5 Verite

Assignment 1 DUE

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

To Do: Group Feedback on Assignment 1 Teams
Post Group Feedback to D2L>Submissions>Group Feedback by midnight Friday 4/30/21

For Week 6:

To Watch: <https://www.nytimes.com/video/opinion/100000005676963/arctic-boyhood.html>
Artic Boyhood
Answer Questions in D2L Discussion Forum by Midnight Sunday 5/2/21

Week 6 What Gives Documentaries a Voice of Their Own?

Review: Reading and Short Doc

Assign: Assignment 2: Archival + Voice
Part 1: Idea, Pitch and Pitch Deck
Uploaded to D2L>Submissions>Assignment 2 Pitch Deck by midnight 5/10/21
Work on Ideas and Pitch Deck for next Week

For Week 7:

To Do: Present Pitch for Assignment 2

Week 7 Working with Archival and structuring your narrative

Present: Assignment 2 Pitches

For Week 8:

To Read: Chapter 8 pgs. 159-193

To Watch: <https://vimeo.com/292537862> **My Dead Dad's Porno Tapes**
Answer Questions in Discussion Forum by midnight 5/16/21

Week 8 Addressing Social and Political Issues in Documentaries

Review: Reading and Short Doc
To Do: Update on Assignment 2, bring example of archival to class

For Week 9:

To Watch: Assort. videos in D2L

Week 9 Post Production in Documentary

Review: Editing
Getting to Rough cut
Work on Assignment 2

Week 10 The Future

Assignment 2 DUE

Review: Assignment 2: Archival + Voice Class feedback
To Do: **Finish Assignment 2 Exported file uploaded to frame.io by midnight 5/31/21**

Spring 2021 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.

OUR CLASS

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

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://depaul.zoom.us/j/92650384042?pwd=Y2tPbVhEVWZWK3o3NzJpbVR0MHpUQT09>

Password: 839270

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>.