

COURSE SYLLABUS

Documentary Film Pune, India

Course code: FILM380

Suggested US semester credit hours: 3

Delivery method: Face to Face

Course length: Semester

Course Description

This course aims to equip the learner with in-depth understanding of the form of the documentary film and arms them with the relevant aesthetic knowledge and production tools to use it as a form of communication. The learner will use this tool to both interpret and communicate their understanding of contemporary India in the form of short non-fiction digital videos. The course is designed on dual principles

1. To function as an introductory course to students who are using the tool of documentary for the first time.
2. A rigorous refresher course for students who are familiar with filmmaking and want to take it up as a profession.

Learning Outcome/Competencies

After completion of the course the learner will be able to –

- Understand the power and effectiveness of documentary films as a communication tool.
- Use the rudimentary knowledge of the history and aesthetics of non-fiction cinema to appreciate and interpret documentary films.
- Conceptualize and create proposals for short documentary films.
- Shoot, edit and disseminate short documentary films.
- Apply the practical knowledge documentary films to understand societies and communities in South Asia.

Note: The professor will appoint a teaching assistant for guiding you at the time of Assignments and Final editing.

Course Modules

Module A: Documentary Aesthetics 22 hours

Documentary as a form, a brief critical history of non-fiction film practices across the world, issues of subjectivity and representation, image and its politics, its use for effective visual communication and documentary in India.

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Date	10:30 to 01:00	02:00 to 05:00	05:00 to 06:00
13/11/17	Introduction to Documentary Cinema (Lecture on History and Aesthetics)	Screenings- 1. Nanook of the North (Robert Flaherty) 2. Night Mail (Basil Wright)	Zoo: Bert Hanztra (Around 30 Minutes)
14/11/17	Importance of Camera, Editing & Sound- (Session on basics and Aesthetics)	Screening of Indian Documentaries	Glass: Bert Hanztra (Around 30 Minutes)
15/11/17	Research Methodology and script writing (Session on how to approach research and how to write for documentaries)	Free Time	Supermen of Malegaon (Around 30 Minutes)
16/11/17	Assignment 1: Actuality trip*		
17/11/17	Assignment: Presentation*		

Field Assignment 1

Actuality trip is where students are expected to visit a location and describe the location in a non-fiction format and create a short presentation on a documentary film of the learner's choice.

***Introduction to the assignment will be given during the session on 'Research Methodology'**

Module B Production Methodology 32 hours

I Pre-production

Conceptualizing and articulating the film, research, writing proposal, budgeting principles for independent films. Choosing equipment or customizing equipment according to the filming requirement.

Assignment 1

Concept and Treatment for a 10-15 minute film

II Production

Outdoors and indoor shooting, interview techniques, framing and composition, getting acceptable audio quality and technical trouble shooting

Field Assignment 2 and 3

- Series of photographs to tell a non-fiction story
- Short Interview recording of an Indian Student/Home-maker/domestic worker (By drawing of lots)

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III Post-production

- Logging the footage, the 'paper edit', capturing/converting into editable form, rough cut, basic 'sound post', mixing and mastering into DVD, QuickTime and streaming video formats.

Assignment 2

- Paper edit of an already shot footage preferably by an Indian film student

Date	10.30 to 01.00	02.00 to 05.00	05.00 to 06.00
20/11/17	Aspects of (Pre-Current-Post) Production	Assignment 4- Introduction and Preparation	Research and Field work
21/11/17	Assignment 4 presentation		Production Methodology
22/11/17	Interview Techniques (Session on aspects of Interviews and Possibilities)	Assignment 5- Introduction and Preparation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shooting and recording an Interview 	
23/11/17	Editing Assignment 5	Assignment 5-Presentation	
24/11/17	Preparation for Final Idea Pitch	Final Idea Pitch	Free time

MODULE C FINAL PROJECT

Date	
28/11/17	Shooting Preparation/Reconnaissance
29/11/17	Day 1 Shoot*
30/11/17	Day 2 Shoot*
01/12/17	Day 3 Shoot*
04/12/17	Day 4 Shoot*
05/12/17	Post-production (Logging capturing)
06/12/17	Post-production (Visual edit)
07/12/17	Post-production (Rough Cut)
08/12/17	Post-production (Sound edit and mixing)
11/12/17	Post-production (Fine Cut)

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12/12/17	Post-production (Mastering and transfer)
13/12/17	Feedback and dissemination input
14/12/17	Final Submission
15/12/17	Documentary Screening and Evaluation

***Please note that the professor will be supervising your work and overall process. The professor will discuss the progress of the documentary on three levels (but not limited to),**

- Actual shoot
- Visual Edit and Rough Cut
- Fine cut and Mastering

IV Dissemination 2 hours

Sharing content on World Wide Web, film festivals, community bodies/non-governmental organizations and integrating it with professional profiles and competencies.

Evaluation

- 10% Attendance
- 20% Performance in introductory classes and related assignments
- 30% Field-Based Exercises (10% each)
- 40% Final Documentary Film

Grading

Alliance programs utilize the follow standard grading policy well accepted by most US institutions.

Excellent	A	93-100%	Good	B+	87-89%	Acceptable	C+	77-79%
	A-	90-92%		B	83-86%		C	73-76%
				B-	80-82%		C-	70-72%
						Unsatisfactory	D+	67-69%
							D	63-66%
							D-	60-62%

What the student is required to bring

The student brings her/his digital camera. Any camcorder, DSRL, or DV camera will do. But it must have a tape or a fire-wire output facility or a memory card (for editing purpose).

The student will come with a laptop. It is very important to note that the laptop should be checked for compatibility with the camera—which means the student should see his/her material from the camera could be transferred on the laptop.

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The student may come with some editing software in their laptop such as Adobe Premier or Final Cut Pro.

The student must bring a bag in which they can neatly pack the camera, the charger, the battery, the requisite wires and converters.

Attendance

Everyone benefits by learning from each other; if students are not present, it affects everyone and negatively impacts the program. Attendance is required for all classes and mandatory field visits; attendance will be recorded. Students must notify their instructors and the Resident Director ahead of their absence from class or class-related activities. Class participation is expected and is a contributing factor to students' final course grades. Students' grades will be reduced one grade increment for more than two unexcused absences.