

MEDIA PRODUCTION WORKSHOP

SUBTITLE: DOCUMENTARY PRODUCTION

COMM 356 – FALL 2016

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

TR 3-4:50 CAC 112/301

Faculty Info:

Chris Shofner

Assistant Professor

Office: CAC 312

Email: cshofner@uwsp.edu

Phone: 715-346-3601

Office Hours:

MTW: 10-11

RF: By Appointment

Course Description:

An advanced production course in which students will hone skills learned in 253 and 353 through production of documentary works. Students will be exposed to the historical and contemporary practices of documentary storytelling.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will critically develop an idea and produce meaningful documentary works.
2. Students will demonstrate technical aspects of the selected tools as well as an understanding of their essence
3. Students will effectively evaluate and interpret their work. This evaluation and interpretation will be informed by a working knowledge of the historical and contemporary theories of documentary production.

Required Supplies:

1. Stereo Headphones
2. Personal Hard Drive (USB 3.0)

Equipment Technology Fee

If you are still enrolled in this course on the ninth day of the semester, a \$25 rental equipment fee will be charged to your student account. Paying this fee allows you to access production equipment (cameras, tripods, light kits, etc.) available for check-out through the IT Help Desk.

Weekly Outline: (Subject to Change, Expand, Contract)

Week 1

Course Introduction

Capturing Reality: The Art of Documentary (97 mins) (online)

Discuss: A) What is Documentary? B) What is not a Documentary?

Assignment: Watch A Documentary

Week 2

Discuss: Interview Composition, Lighting, Sound, Project 1, Release Forms

Demo: Interview Composition, Lighting, Sound

View: Various clips related to discussion.

Week 3

TBD – Project 1

Week 4

TBD – Project 1

Week 5

View: American Movie (105 mins), Project 1

Discuss: A) Critical Needs [Characters and Strong Sequences]

Assignment: Project 2, Documentary Proposal, Worksheet

View: Interview Assignments Due

Discuss: A) Developing the Idea

Lab: Partial Work Day

Week 6

View: Supersize Me or Bowling for Columbine

Discuss: Narrative Structure, Scripts and Editing

Assignment: Narrative Structure Outline Discussion

Lab: Partial Work Day

Week 7

View: Freedom of Expression: Resistance & Repression in the Age of Intellectual Property (53 mins) (online)

Discuss: Ethics and Legal Issues

Assignment: Quiz over Video, Narrative Structure Outline Due

Lab: One-on-One Project Meetings – Proposals Due

Week 8

View: What Would Jesus Buy? (91 mins) or similar style

Discuss: A) Using Music in the Documentary

Assignment: Discussion worksheet

Lab: Partial Work Day

Week 9

View: Ken Burns Documentary

Discuss: Historical Documentary, Ken Burns Effect, etc.

Lab: Partial Work Day

Week 10

View: Body Song (78 mins) or other Experimental Documentary

Discuss: A) Experimental Documentary B) Interactive Multimedia Documentary

Assignment: Interactive Multimedia Post on D2L, Worksheet

Lab: Partial Work Day

Week 11

View: Work in Progress Critique, Screening TBA

Discuss: Product Delivery

Assignment: Find a Festival/Exhibition opportunity

Lab: Partial Work Day

Week 12

View: Battleship Potemkin (70 mins) Steps (57 mins)
Discuss: Documentary meets Art
Assignment: Worksheet
Lab: Partial Work Day

Thanksgiving Break

Week 13:

View: This is Spinal Tap (84 mins) or A Mighty Wind (91 mins)
Discuss: The Mockumentary and its relation to Documentary
Assignment: Worksheet
Lab: Partial Work Day

Week 14

View: TBA
Spill Day

Week 15

View: Final Project Critique Day #1
Lab: Final Work Day

Week 16

View Final Project Critique Day #2
Wednesday, Dec 21: 12:30-2:30PM

Brief Project Descriptions

1. Interview Project: Students will plan and produce a 1-2 minute nonfiction interview complete with appropriate B-roll and brief script. You will receive a detailed handout.
2. Documentary Production: Students will produce a 5-12 minute original documentary work. This work must be submitted to at least one exhibition opportunity (it does not have to be accepted). You will write critically about your work. You will receive a detailed handout.

Assignment Policy:

Late assignments will not be accepted. Students are responsible for all course materials, including, but not limited to: class lectures, handouts, textbook reading assignments, projects, labs, and quizzes. Assignments and due dates may be changed at the instructor's discretion with fair notice to students. Please see the attached tentative course schedule for specific assignments and due dates.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend class regularly. Three absences are allowed. The fourth absence will lower the final grade by one letter. The fifth will lower the final grade by two letters. On the sixth absence, the student must drop or s/he will fail the course. If a student must be absent the day a presentation/project or exam is scheduled, s/he must notify the instructor prior to class time. No make-ups will be given if the instructor is not given a legitimate excuse before the time of the assignment due date. Students who are excessively late to class will be counted as absent.

Last day to drop without a grade: September 15th
Last day to drop the course: November 11th

Grading:

Quizzes 10%

Interview Project	20%
Final Project	40%
Class Participation	10%
Weekly Assignments	20%

Grading Scale: A= 94-100%; A-= 90-93%; B+= 87-89%; B= 83-86%; B- =80-82%; C+=77-79; C=73-76%; C-=70-72%; D+=67-69%; D=63-66%; D-=60-62% F= Below 60%

Electronic Device Policy:

Do not use cellular phones or other electronic devices (i.e. social media) during class instruction time. In addition, students are asked to use classroom computers for class work only. The use of any electronic device during an exam or quiz will result in an immediate “F” for that assignment.

Email Notification:

The instructor may send information to students through the campus computer system. Therefore, students **MUST** check their UWSP campus email on a regular basis. The instructor will post information on D2L as well. Students must check D2L regularly.

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law requiring educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information about UWSP’s policies, check here:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/ADA/rightsADAPolicyInfo.pdf>

If you have a disability and require classroom and/or exam accommodations, please register with the Disability and Assistive Technology Center and then contact me at the beginning of the course. I am happy to help in any way that I can. For more information, please visit the Disability and Assistive Technology Center, located on the 6th floor of the Learning Resource Center (the Library). You can also find more information here: <http://www4.uwsp.edu/special/disability/>

University Handbook Statement:

UWSP values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. In order to ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed, we have developed a set of expectations for all students and instructors. This set of expectations is known as the *Rights and Responsibilities* document, and it is intended to help establish a positive living and learning environment at UWSP. Click here for more information:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Pages/rightsandresponsibilities.aspx>

Academic integrity is central to the mission of higher education in general and UWSP in particular. Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) is taken very seriously. Don’t do it! The minimum penalty for a violation of academic integrity is a failure (zero) for the assignment. For more information, see the UWSP “Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures” section of the *Rights and Responsibilities* document, Chapter 14, which can be accessed here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf>