Spring 2-1-2019

**JRNL 488.01: Student Television Documentary Unit**

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JRNL 488 - Television Documentary Unit - CRN 32628

Spring 2019 - Meets M/W 9:30-10:50am - DAH 114

Syllabus - Subject to Change

Instructor

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Course Description:
Students in this course will produce a 30-minute television documentary. This course will examine different forms used in documentary production and the concepts used for producing a 30-minute program for broadcast. In addition, this course will emphasize contemporary documentary techniques, research methodology, planning production, interviewing skills, video shooting, script writing, and post-production video editing, graphic design, finishing and promotion.

Students will work in teams participating in critical decisions while creating the documentary program. The final production may air on MontanaPBS if management there approves.

Students will work in teams assigned to produce a section of the finished documentary program. In addition to these specific roles, each member of the team will fully participate in the production process – everything from researching and conceptualizing the project, filling crew positions on shoots, to logging and importing shot footage, writing, editing, adding graphics & music, finishing, promoting and critically reviewing the editorial progress.

ATTENDANCE AND WORKLOAD:
If you are not excused, you are required to attend all class sessions. If illness or an emergency prevents you from attending, telephone one of the professors BEFORE CLASS. Unexcused absences will affect student grades.

It will be extremely challenging to produce a quality 30-minute documentary in 3 ½ months. This will require extraordinary teamwork and a major commitment of time inside and outside of
class to plan, shoot and edit the program. In addition, students will be required to watch select documentaries and contribute to a discussion of them during class time.

Please note: you may not submit any assignment that has previously, or will be concurrently, submitted for another class, unless you receive prior approval from the professor for this course. To do so without permission will result in an F for the assignment and could result in an F for the course.

Course Objectives

The successful student in JRNL 488 will:

- Recognize different processes involved in documentary making
- Identify various authorial intentions associated with genre
- Understand and work for an audience
- Effectively pitch ideas
- Develop & implement a plan for shooting, writing/editing and finishing a long-form broadcast production
- Understand the financial objectives of video production
- Manage a budget
- Develop interview techniques
- Research archival materials
- Catalogue field video
- Capture & edit video
- Manage video storage and organization
- Create a clean soundtrack
- Present your work-in-progress and completed work
- Critique and assess your own work-in-progress; accept others’ critiques
- Work in collaboration
- Explore alternative delivery systems for finished product
- Understand and execute effective promotion through various media platforms including social media

GRADES: a grade and/or critical feedback will be given for each assignment. The final grade will reflect critical evaluation of individual projects, energy and consistency of effort, contribution to discussions, amount and quality of work during the semester and attendance. The following is a breakdown of grading percentages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Production</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Editorial &amp; Editing</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finishing/Post Production</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contribution to Finished Product</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Evaluation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teamwork &amp; Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Required Materials:
- You will need a hard drive compatible with UM School of Journalism’s system to store video.

Same Work for Multiple Classes in J-School:
- You may not submit for this course any assignment that has previously or will be concurrently submitted for another class unless you receive prior approval from the professor for this course. You may not submit work you’ve done for any television station in an internship or paid position. To do so without permission will result in an “F” for the assignment and could result in an “F” for the course.

Diversity Initiative:
- The School of Journalism has undertaken an initiative to create opportunities for students to tell stories of more varied and diverse groups of people. You will need to integrate diversity coverage into this project.

Academic Honesty:
- I expect your honesty in presenting your own work for this course. Academic misconduct at The University of Montana is subject to an academic penalty ranging from failing the assignment to expulsion from the university. Students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. [http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321](http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321)

Plagiarism:
- As defined by “The University of Montana Student Conduct Code” plagiarism is: “Representing another person's words, ideas, data, or materials as one's own.” This is strictly prohibited in this class and any case of plagiarism in this course will be subject to the penalties outlined in the student code of conduct.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:
- This course is accessible to and usable by otherwise qualified students with disabilities. To request reasonable program modifications, please consult with the instructor. Disability Services for Students will assist the instructor and student in the accommodation process. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at [www.umt.edu/dss/](http://www.umt.edu/dss/).

Access:
- For after-hours access to Don Anderson Hall, you will be able to enter the building and DAH 101 using the Griz Card swipe. You will also be given a key code for the door to DAH 300G for the edit suites used for this project.
JRNL 488-Television Documentary Unit-CRN 32628

Spring 2016-Meets M/W 9:30-10:50am-DAH 114

Syllabus-Subject to Change

Monday, 1/14
- Introduction & Class Structure
- Jobs and job descriptions
- Topic Research

ASSIGNMENTS: Watch one student documentary example.

Wednesday, 1/16
- Narrative Storytelling in documentaries
- Differences from news coverage
- Discuss potential storyline for topic

ASSIGNMENT: Shoot interview. Standard format/set-up

Monday, 1/21
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

Wednesday, 1/23
- Review shooting exercise
- Discuss camera operation/technical set-up
- Discuss & decide on communication/production schedules

ASSIGNMENT: Shoot again. Different setting

Monday, 1/28
- Review shooting exercise
- Start to craft preliminary outline
- Begin to assign teams different segment of doc story

ASSIGNMENT: Continue research

Wednesday, 1/30
- Revise preliminary outline for story
- Discuss shooting strategies—connect to editing
- How do we break down a scene? Different from news

ASSIGNMENT: Shooting assignment: walk/talk handheld shooting
Monday, 2/4
- Review shooting assignment
- We should start field shooting this week
- Develop production calendar
- Discuss Shooting Schedule/Team Assignments

ASSIGNMENT-Schedule shoots.

Wednesday, 2/6
- Create Shooting Schedule
- Research Exam
- First Peer Evaluation – Schedule 1-on1 meetings

Monday, 2/11
- Organization of Project – Production and Post Production
- Discuss logging, organization of information/elements for project
- Execute a logging example
- AVID

Wednesday, 2/13
- View and discuss narrative approaches
- Discuss challenges to date, production plan for March
- Finalize production schedule and plan
- Discuss logging/editing plan

Monday, 2/18
- President’s Day Holiday

Wednesday, 2/20
- View and decide editing style
- Review shoots/interviews
- Troubleshoot shooting style/lights/audio
- Review story arc for each team
- Review content for holes in topic coverage/revise plan

Monday, 2/25
- Review and Discuss footage or scenes
- Begin work on overall story arc
- Teams report on progress
- Budget Review

ASSIGNMENT: Begin thinking about title for program. Create graphic look ideas.
Wednesday, 2/27
- Review and Discuss footage or scenes
- Continue work on overall story arc
- Teams report on progress
- Discuss music, online, graphic look, title

ASSIGNMENT: Music, online, graphic examples to share with class

Monday, 3/4
- View examples of music, online, graphic look, title
- One on one editing review

Wednesday, 3/6
- Decide music, online, graphic look, title
- Editing review as needed
- Review PBS requirements
- Discuss promotion/SHOW TITLE

Monday, 3/11
- View promotion ideas
- Assign post-production duties
- One on one editing review
- Troubleshoot & modify
- Create overall story arc

ASSIGNMENT: Edit scenes for class viewing

Wednesday, 3/13
- Discuss script writing
- Writing long-form vs. News Style
- Finalize story arc

Monday, 3/18
- First draft of scripts due
- Identify missing pieces/problem areas/schedule pick-up shoots
- Second Peer Evaluation—schedule 1-on1 meetings

Wednesday, 3/20
- Review script rewrites
- Identify missing pieces/problem areas
- Rework story flow/film arc
- Start rough cut of program

Spring Break, 3/25-3/29
- Must complete rough cut by end of break
- Modify production schedule
Monday, 4/1
- Review rough cut
- Identify missing pieces/problem areas
- Rework story flow/arc
- Begin narrator auditions

Wednesday 4/3
- Continue rewrites
- Assign video promotion (script + edit)
- Schedule remaining shoots

Monday, 4/8
- Watch 2nd Rough Cut
- View & modify
- Rewrite for Fine Cut

Wednesday, 4/10
- Finish rewrite for Fine Cut
- Prepare for re-edit for Fine Cut
- Finish video promos
- Make final decision on narrator

Monday, 4/15
- Watch Fine Cut
- Begin final work on L-3 list, credits
- Start next rewrite for Final Cut
- Address any final missing pieces

Wednesday, 4/17
- Finish rewrite for Final Cut
- Review graphics needs/title graphic
- Funding Credits

Monday, 4/22
- Continue edit work on Final Cut
- Address any additional promotional needs
- Finalize details about Premiere Showing

Wednesday, 4/24
- Watch Final Cut in class
- Discuss any remaining editorial/production decisions
- Start final post-production

Meetings will be held finals week as needed.