Summer 6-1-2020

FILM 448.01: Documentary - Theory and Practice

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FILM 448 - Documentary: Theory and Practice

Instructor: Sean O’Brien, Office hours W 12-2 and by appointment in LA 110
sean.o’Brien@mso.umt.edu

Readings: Barebones Camera Course for Film and Video (order it yourselves)
Handouts

Assignments: Short Review Essays
Weekly edits and a 10-15 minute documentary to be shown at a class film
festival shown at the end of the semester

Outside class attendance:
   Editing workshops for the inexperienced
   Additional workshop sessions

Attendance Policy: NO UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Grad Students Working on a Media-related Thesis: Please return the completed and signed
chair consent form by 1/29. We will support you in your effort to incorporate the media work you
do in this class into your graduate project, but the final decision regarding its inclusion rests with
your graduate committee.

Schedule:

1/15 Introduction
   Reading: Documentary Reading handout

1/22 Approaches to Documentary
   Due: Two-page assessment of Brother’s Keeper
       Three one-page assessments of three other documentaries on Sean’s list of
   recommended docs

1/29 Due: Shoot Composition Exercises
       Two-minute documentary
       Treatment for your final documentary
       Graduate chair consent form due for students with media-related graduate project

2/5 The Interview
   Bring your cameras
   2-pg review of White Diamond
   Due: Detailed production schedule

2/12 20-minute interview cut down to two-minutes piece that includes music and B-
roll and Workshop interviews

2/19 An additional “action interview” cut together with first interview – 4 minutes
Workshopping
2/26  One additional shoot – recut everything for a new 4-minute piece  
Workshopping

3/4  Additional footage – 5-minute piece  
Workshopping

3/11  More shooting and editing – revised piece  
Workshopping cut

3/18  SPRING BREAK

3/25  Additional shooting and editing  
First half of doc due  
Workshopping first half of doc

4/1  Additional shooting and editing  
Workshopping

4/8  2/3 of Doc due  
Workshopping

4/15  First cut of Doc due  
Workshopping

4/22  Second cut of Doc due  
Workshopping

4/29  Final cut of Doc due

FINAL EXAM – MONDAY, MAY 4 AT 11:00