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Spring 2-1-2020

### FILM 448.01: Documentary - Theory and Practice

Sean O'Brien

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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**