

1-2014

JRNL 488.01: Student Documentary Unit

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The University of Montana
School of Journalism - Department of Radio-Television

Student Documentary Unit-JRNL 488
Spring 2014 - 3 semester credits
CRN 34947/33560
Monday-Wednesday 9:40 – 11:00a--DAH 114

Syllabus - Subject to Change

Instructors

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Course Description:

Students in this course will produce a 60-minute television documentary. This course will examine different forms used in documentary production and the concepts used for producing a 60-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 60-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:

Research	10%
Field Production	20%
Editorial & Editing	20%
Finishing/Post Production	20%
Contribution to Finished Product	10%
Peer Evaluation	10%
Teamwork & Class Participation	10%

Student Documentary Unit

JRNL 488-CRN 34947/33560-Spring 2014

Meets M/W 9:40-11 DAH 114

Monday

Wednesday

<p>1/27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction & Class Structure • Jobs and job descriptions • Hand out job applications • Topic Presentations <p>ASSIGNMENTS: Research Topics/Prepare Presentation Fill out job application</p>	<p>1/29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic Research Presentations <p>TOPIC DISCUSSION</p> <p>DUE: Job Applications-Interviews for Director/Producer scheduled for Friday ASSIGNMENT: View and critique one past student doc/one other doc **Friday interviews w/director & producer candidates</p>
<p>2/3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DECIDE TOPIC TODAY!! • Understand Documentary Film • Differences from news coverage • View doc examples/Discuss critiques • Agree on 5 questions for mock interviews <p>DUE: Doc film critique ASSIGNMENT: Research doc topic</p>	<p>2/5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel procedure-Wanda • Review budget and decide budget priorities/procedures • Leaders/teams announced • Discuss & decide on communication/production schedules • Experiment with interview look/lighting <p>ASSIGNMENT: Teams shoot interviews with 5 questions-create a look Research doc topic</p>
<p>2/10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at interview assignments in class • Determine look and recreate in class • Research presentations • Begin to assign teams different segment of doc story <p>DUE: Interview Research presentations ASSIGNMENT: Continue research</p>	<p>2/12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Assignments decided by today • View Broll examples and discuss look • Discuss ideas and shot list for Scene Assignment <p>ASSIGNMENT: Broll/scene shoot for each team Continue research</p>

<p>2/17</p> <p>**Shooting/Logging/Editing begins and continues all semester**</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review scenes • Research presentations/Interview list • Discuss Shooting Schedule/Team Assignments <p>DUE: Scene sequences</p> <p>ASSIGNMENT-Schedule shoots</p>	<p>2/19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Shooting Schedule • First Peer Evaluation – Research and Prep <p>DUE: Team shooting plan</p> <p>ASSIGNMENT: View films at BSDFF and critique</p> <p>**BSDFF MENTOR DAYS SAT/SUN**</p>
<p>2/24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of Project – Production and Post Production • Discuss logging, organization of information/elements for project • Execute a logging example • Review shooting/production schedule <p>DUE: Film critiques</p>	<p>2/26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View and discuss narrative approaches • Discuss challenges to date, production plan for March • Finalize production schedule and plan • Discuss logging/editing plan <p>ASSIGNMENT: Create three scene story arc for your team assignment</p>
<p>3/3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to Editing Day • Discuss Organization of Team Hard Drives & Isis • Discuss editing terms & styles, discuss Avid specific issues <p>ASSIGNMENT: Editors create editing look for film</p>	<p>3/5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>DUE: Editing look for film</p>
<p>3/10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and Discuss footage or scenes • Begin work on overall story arc • Teams report on progress • Budget Review <p>ASSIGNMENT: Begin thinking about title for film</p> <p>Create graphic look ideas</p>	<p>3/12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and Discuss footage or scenes • Begin work on overall story arc • Teams report on progress • Discuss music, online, graphic look, title <p>ASSIGNMENT: Music, online, graphic examples to share with class</p>
<p>3/17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View examples of music, online, graphic look, title • One on one editing review 	<p>3/19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide music, online, graphic look, title • One on one editing review • Review PBS requirements • Discuss promotion • <p>ASSIGNMENT: Create promotion examples</p>

3/24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View promotion ideas • One on one editing review • Troubleshoot & modify • Create overall story arc 	3/26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss & assign post-production duties • Troubleshoot & modify • One on one editing review ASSIGNMENT: Edit team scenes for in-class viewing
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3/31- No Class Spring Break	4/2- No Class Spring Break
4/7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review first edits of two teams • Peer grade sheets given DUE: Two teams' scenes	4/9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review first edits of two teams • Finalize story arc • Identify missing pieces/problem areas • Budget Review DUE: Grade for teammates Two teams' scenes ASSIGNMENT: Create rough cut of film
4/14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review rough cut of entire film • Identify missing pieces/problem areas • Rework story flow/film arc • Schedule remaining shoots 	4/16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View promotions, graphics, web, music • Modify production schedule ASSIGNMENT: Create show open Create credit "look"
4/21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review rough cut TWO • Identify missing pieces/problem areas • Rework story flow/film arc • Schedule remaining shoots • Plan premiere-order catering 	4/23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View Show Open/Credits • Identify missing pieces/problem areas • Rework story flow/film arc • Schedule remaining shoots ASSIGNMENT: Invitations & program DUE: Promotions package to PBS
4/28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Review • View & modify DUE: Invitations & programs ASSIGNMENT: Begin creating word document for closed captioning	4/30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View & modify • Invitations printed & sent • Programs printed
5/5 View & modify	5/7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View & modify • Finish closed captioning document • Final peer eval distributed • Class evaluations filled out

FINALS WEEK Viewings continue at scheduled times	FINALS WEEK Premiere DVD created Closed captioning completed
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World premiere scheduled for Friday, May 16th, 7:00 pm. University CENTER Theater.