

1-2004

JOUR 451.01: Student Documentary Unit

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Student Documentary Unit (JOUR 451/651) Spring 2004 - 3 semester credits

Syllabus - Subject to Change

Scope: This course is the production of a one-hour television documentary for Montana PBS. It includes all aspects of documentary production, including research, writing, reporting, photography, editing and performance. Funding for the production is provided by the Greater Montana Foundation and The University of Montana.

Frequency of Offering: This course is offered each spring semester. **Prerequisite:** JOUR or RTV 450 or consent of instructor.

Class meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2:10 to 3 p.m. in GBB 108.

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| Instructors: | Bill Knowles | Ray Ekness |
| | 730 Eddy | 730 Eddy |
| | (Office Hours MW 10am-noon) | (Office Hours MW 9-11am) |
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Student e-mail: Each student must have an e-mail account the university or with any other Internet service provider (ISP) that provides a working e-mail address that you don't overload.

Textbook: *Documentary Storytelling for Film and Videomakers* by Sheila Curran Bernard. This is an optional book. Groups of you may go in together. There will be specific reading assignments.

Listserv: You are all now or will be placed on the class listserv, DOC-L. You must post messages from the address at which you are subscribed. The posting address is doc-l@majordomo.umt.edu

Grading, depending on your assignments, is based on your ideas, research, newsgathering, photography, audio recording, logging, scriptwriting and rewriting, video editing, acceptance of travel assignments, attendance and overall attitude, including how you carry out your assignments, how you contribute to the overall success of the project and how well you work with classmates. Written activity reports are required from time to time. No midterm grades are announced. If you're not doing well, you'll hear.

Attendance is MANDATORY: If you must miss a class, please notify one of us in advance. Illness and being away on university business, including traveling for this class, are usually the only acceptable excuses. We reserve the right to require students with two or more unexcused absences to drop the course. KBGA work is not an excuse to miss class.

Screening sessions: In addition to clips shown during Wednesday documentary training sessions, we will conduct during February and March three evening screening sessions of significant long-form documentaries. Each student is required to attend two, and write a short report about styles, approaches, photography, research, script, errors, etc. Details TBA.

Missing other classes: Prof. Knowles will communicate with professors whose classes you must miss because of doc unit travel. Please provide to bill.knowles@umontana.edu the course number, course name, professor's full name and email address and dates you will miss class. All work in all missed classes must be made up. Requests for excuses must be received via email. No last-minute phone calls or hand-scrawled paper messages, please.

Graduate Students: Graduate students will be responsible for written, audio and video promotion of the student documentary. Separate meetings will take place to conceive a marketing plan.

CLASS-BY-CLASS ••SUBJECT TO CHANGE

| Mondays | Wednesdays | Fridays |
|--|--|--|
| Jan 26 - Assignment: written topic proposals, in order of your preference: DUE Wednesday in class. Job questionnaire passed out. | Jan 28 - Topic Proposals DUE | Jan 30 - Discussion of topics. Each student to present his/her ideas. Job questionnaire turned in. |
| Feb 2 ••More topic discussion. | Feb 4 ••More topic discussion. | Feb 6 ••More topic discussion. FINAL TOPIC CHOSEN. |
| Feb 9 - Producer, Director, AP, AD and other jobs assigned and explained. Research assignments made. | Feb 11 ••View and discuss specific documentaries | Feb 13 - Research updates. |
| Feb 16 ••PRESIDENTS DAY NO CLASS | Feb 19 ••View and discuss specific documentaries | Feb 21 - Research updates. |
| Feb 23 ••Discussion of contact lists. Travel expense procedures explained by Wanda LaCroix. | Feb 25 ••View and discuss specific documentaries | Feb 27 ••Oral research updates. |
| March 1 ••Written activity reports due. Director discusses doc •look. •• | March 5 ••View and discuss specific documentaries | March 7 - Segment producers announce proposed trips. |
| March 8 ••Field producing school. Adopting our shooting and editing | March 10 ••View and discuss specific documentaries | March 12 - More field producing school. How to properly |

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| style. Shooting may begin. | | photograph, light and mic an interview. |
| March 15 ••Producer's detailed situationer. NOTE: Logging must be completed no later than 48 hours after returning from a trip. | March 17 ••View and discuss specific documentaries | March 19 ••Progress reports from producer and director. |
| March 22 ••Written activity reports due. Shooting and Logging Updates | March 24 ••Group Meetings | March 26 - TBA |
| March 29 - April 2 - SPRING BREAK! (but shooting may occur) | | |
| April 5 ••Shooting and Logging Updates | April 7 ••Preliminary segment script discussion. | April 9 - Preliminary segment scripts due via EZ News. |
| April 12 ••Segment script discussion. Identification of rewrites. | April 14 - Script rewrites due via EZNews for duplication. Group meetings. | April 16 - Editing may begin when script OK and segment is tracked. NOTE: All documentary tracking is supervised by Bill. |
| April 19 ••Written activity reports due. Segment progress reports. | April 21 ••Group Meetings. | April 23 ••More segment progress reports. |
| April 26 ••More segment progress reports or preliminary segment screenings. | April 28 ••Group Meetings. | April 30 ••Preliminary segment screenings. |
| May 3 - Final segments screened in class. Begin post-production. | May 5 - Final segments screened in class. Continue post-production. | May 7 - Final segments screened in class. Continue post-production. |
| FINALS WEEK: Thursday, May 13 - 3:20 to 5:20 p.m. Documentary screened in class. Students complete course evaluations and group reports. No final exam. | | Friday, May 14 - 7:30 p.m. University Center Theater. Premiere for parents, friends, sources, etc. |
| Saturday, May 15 - 9 a.m. •• COMMENCEMENT! | | |