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JRNL 688.01: Graduate Television Documentary Unit

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JRNL 688-Television Documentary Unit-CRN 34297

Spring 2015-Meets M/W 9:40-11am-DAH 114 with additional meeting time for grad students to be determined

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.

Graduate students meet with undergraduates enrolled in JRNL 488. Graduate students enrolled in JRNL 688 will have significant additional responsibilities aligned with their areas of expertise,

desired growth & learning and needs of the project. Those responsibilities may include but are not limited to: budgeting, grant writing, research, videography, editing, post-production, promotion, event planning, etc.

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 688 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	20%
Field Production	20%
Editorial & Editing	20%
Finishing/Post Production	20%
Peer Evaluation	10%
Teamwork & Class Participation	10%

Required Materials:

- You will need a hard drive compatible with the Radio-Television Department'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/VP/SA/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/.

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 114 and the radio studios in DAH 307-311.

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Syllabus-Subject to Change

Monday, 1/26

- Introduction & Class Structure
- Jobs and job descriptions
- Hand out job applications
- Topic Presentations

Assignments: Research Topics/Prepare Presentation. Fill out job application.

Wednesday, 1/28

- Topic Research Presentations/Discussion

Due: Job Applications-Interviews for Director/Producer scheduled for Friday 1/30.

ASSIGNMENT: View and critique "Distracted: Eyes Off the Road."

Monday, 2/2

- DECIDE TOPIC TODAY!!
- Discuss "Distracted"
- Understand Documentary Film
- Differences from news coverage
- Agree on 5 questions for mock interviews

Due: Distracted critique

Assignment: Research doc topic

Wednesday, 2/4

- Travel procedure-Wanda
- Review budget and decide budget priorities/procedures
- Leaders/teams announced
- Discuss & decide on communication/production schedules
- Camera work-Experiment with interview look/lighting

Assignment: Teams shoot interviews with 5 questions-create a look. Research doc topic.

Monday, 2/9

- Look at interview assignments in class
- Determine look and recreate in class

- Research presentations
- Begin to assign teams different segment of doc story

Due: Interviews. Research Presentations

Assignment: Continue Research

Wednesday, 2/11

- Team Assignments decided by today
- View Broll examples and discuss look
- In-class camera work
- Discuss ideas and shot list for Scene Assignment

Assignment: Broll/scene shoot for each team.

Continue research. BSDFF Mentor Days Saturday & Sunday. View films at BSDFF or other documentaries.

Monday, 2/16-No class-Presidents' Day

Wednesday, 2/18

- Shooting/Logging/Editing begins and continues all semester
- Review scenes assignment
- Research presentations/Interview list created
- Discuss Shooting Schedule/Team Assignments

Due: Scene sequences, BSDFF Film Critiques

Assignment: Schedule shoots. Review research for exam.

Monday, 2/23

- Create Shooting Schedule
- Research Exam
- First Peer Evaluation – Research and Prep

Due: Team shooting plan

Wednesday, 2/25

- Organization of Project – Production and Post Production
- Discuss logging, organization of information/elements for project
- Execute a logging example
- Review shooting/production schedule

Due: Film critiques

Monday, 3/2

- View and discuss narrative approaches-documentaries viewed for assignment
- Discuss challenges to date, production plan for March
- Finalize production schedule and plan
- Discuss logging/editing plan

Assignment: Create three scene story arc for your team assignment

Wednesday, 3/5

- Intro to Editing Day
- Discuss and plan organization of Team Hard Drives & Isis
- Discuss editing terms & styles, discuss Avid specific issues

Assignment: Editors create editing look

Monday, 3/9

- 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

Due: Editing look examples

Wednesday, 3/11

- Review and Discuss footage or scenes
- Begin work on overall story arc
- Teams report on progress
- Budget Review

Assignment: Begin thinking about title for film. Create graphic look ideas.

Monday, 3/16

- Review and Discuss footage or scenes
- Begin work on overall story arc
- Teams report on progress
- Discuss music, online, graphic look, title

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

Wednesday, 3/18

- View examples of music, online, graphic look, title
- One on one editing review

Monday, 3/23

- Decide music, online, graphic look, title
- One on one editing review
- Review PBS requirements
- Discuss promotion

Assignment: Create promotion examples

Wednesday, 3/25

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

Assignment: Edit scenes for class viewing

Monday, 3/30-No Class-Spring Break

Wednesday, 4/1-No Class-Spring Break

Monday, 4/6

- Review first edits of two teams
- Peer grade sheets given

Due: Two teams' scenes for viewing

Wednesday, 4/8

- Review first edits of two teams
- Finalize story arc
- Identify missing pieces/problem areas/schedule pick-up shoots
- Budget Review

Due: Peer grades for teammates, Two teams' scenes for viewing

Assignment: Create rough cut of film

Monday, 4/13

- Review rough cut of entire film
- Identify missing pieces/problem areas
- Rework story flow/film arc
- Schedule remaining shoots

Wednesday, 4/15

- View promotions, graphics, web, music
- Modify production schedule

Assignment: Create show open, Create credit "look", rough cut #2

Monday, 4/20

- Review rough cut TWO
- Identify missing pieces/problem areas
- Rework story flow/arc
- Schedule remaining shoots
- Plan premiere-order catering, create invitations, programs, etc.

Wednesday 4/22

- 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

Monday, 4/27

- Budget Review
- View & modify

Due: Invitations & programs

Assignment: Begin creating word document for closed captioning

Wednesday, 4/29

- View & modify
- Invitations printed & sent
- Programs printed

Monday, 5/4

- View & modify
- Finish closed captioning document
- Final peer eval distributed
- Class evaluations filled out

Wednesday, 5/6

- View & modify
- Finish closed captioning
- Create master disc for playback & DVD production

Meetings will be held finals week as needed.

Documentary Premiere scheduled for Friday, May 15 at 7:00 pm in the University Center Theater.