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JRNL 688.01: Television Documentary Unit - Graduate

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JRNL 688-Television Documentary Unit-CRN 33478

Spring 2016-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 UM School of Journalism'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/VPsA/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.