

# Creative Documentary Workshop

## *from Idea to Screen*



A five-week workshop with **Francisco Zamora**, Master in Documentary Directing, filmmaker, and Ph.D. Candidate in Film Studies at the University Paris VIII, France.

***Free to UMass and 5 College students.***

Fridays 3:00pm–6:00pm

March 27 — April 24

Integrative Learning Center S404  
UMass Amherst

To join the workshop, contact:  
[franciscozamoraporras@gmail.com](mailto:franciscozamoraporras@gmail.com)

This workshop explores the key phases in the making of a creative documentary from screenplay to screening. This theoretical-practical weekly encounter will culminate in the creation of a 5-minute documentary. Each student will write, film, and edit their own film.

*All the movies made in this workshop will be shown in a public screening at UMass with a short presentation by each participant.*

### **The approaches of the workshop:**

- I. Journalistic genres and cinematographic documentaries, differences and permeabilities
- II. Historical approach to documentaries
- III. Writing a documentary and how to anticipate the real
- IV. Questions around filming and editing a documentary
- V. Showing a documentary: pitching a film and the commercial position of a filmmaker.

### **Methodology in two modules:**

*Theory:* Theoretical points will be accompanied by clips from documentaries which will open the discussion.

*Practice:* In the practical part of the workshop, the students will write and film their own ideas. In every class we will allot a time to show the work created by the students and discuss the concrete technical and ethical issues of their creative process.

**Movies we will screen:**

FLAHERTY Robert J., *Nanook of the North*, 1922  
VIGO Jean, *A propos de Nice*, 1930  
ROUCH Jean, *Chronique d'un été*, 1961.  
MAYSLES Albert, MAYSLES David, *Salesman*, 1968  
WISEMAN Frederick, *Titicut Folies*, 1967  
POLLET Jean Daniel, *Méditerranée*, 1974  
KAREL William, *Dark side of the Moon*, 2002  
SAAL Michka, *Prisoners of Beckett*, 2005  
COSTA Pedro, *In Vanda's Room*, 2000  
PHILIBERT Nicolas, *To Be and to Have*, 2002

**Recomended texts:**

GAUTHIER Guy, *Le documentaire un autre cinéma*, 3ème édition, Armand Colin Cinéma.  
JAQUINOT Généviève, *Le documentaire, une fiction (pas) comme les autres*, Revue d'études cinématographiques, Hiver 1994.  
NINEY François, *Le documentaire et ses faux-semblants*, KLINCSIECK, 2009.  
PILARD Philippe, SUCHET Simone, *Le documentaire passe au direct*, VLB Editeur, Quebec 2003.  
SIGAAR Jacqueline, *L'écriture documentaire : Résumé, Note d'intention, Synopsis, Séquencier, Scénario, Traitement*, DIXIT EDITIONS, 2010.  
WEINRICHTER Antonio, *Desvíos de lo real, El cine de no ficción*, T y B editores, 2005.