

COM480: Media Production and Documentary Filmmaking
Department of Media Arts
Course Duration: Fall 2022 - Winter 2023 (Full Year)

Course Overview:

This course involves creating a short documentary film on a topic of social or cultural significance. Students will engage in scriptwriting, filming, editing, and post-production, culminating in a final screening and critique session.

Learning Objectives:

1. **Script Development:** Craft a compelling and well-structured script for a documentary film.
2. **Production Techniques:** Utilize filming and production techniques to capture high-quality footage.
3. **Editing & Post-Production:** Apply editing and post-production skills to finalize the documentary.
4. **Presentation & Evaluation:** Present the completed film and participate in a critique session.

Course Outline & Schedule:

1. Project Initiation & Scriptwriting

Week	Topic	Activities	Deliverable	Due Date
1-2	Course Introduction & Team Setup	Introduction to documentary filmmaking, team formation	Project Proposal (10%)	September 15, 2022
3-4	Scriptwriting	Developing and refining the script	Draft Script (15%)	October 15, 2022

2. Production Planning & Filming

Week	Topic	Activities	Deliverable	Due Date
5-7	Production Planning	Planning production logistics, equipment setup	Production Plan (10%)	November 1, 2022
8-10	Filming	Filming and capturing footage	Raw Footage Submission (15%)	December 1, 2022

3. Editing & Post-Production

Week	Topic	Activities	Deliverable	Due Date
11-13	Editing Basics	Introduction to editing software and techniques	Rough Cut (15%)	January 15, 2023
14-16	Post-Production	Finalizing the edit, sound, and color correction	Final Cut (20%)	February 28, 2023

4. Final Presentation & Critique

Week	Topic	Activities	Deliverable	Due Date
17-18	Presentation Preparation	Preparing for final screening and presentation	Screening Preparation (10%)	March 15, 2023
19	Final Screening & Critique	Screening of documentaries and critique session	Final Documentary (15%)	March 22, 2023
20	Reflection & Feedback	Reflecting on the project and course experience	Reflection Report (10%)	April 1, 2023

Grading Distribution:

- **Project Proposal:** 10%
- **Draft Script:** 15%
- **Production Plan:** 10%
- **Raw Footage Submission:** 15%
- **Rough Cut:** 15%
- **Final Cut:** 20%
- **Screening Preparation:** 10%
- **Final Documentary:** 15%
- **Reflection Report:** 10%

Total: 100%

Detailed Deliverables:

1. **Project Proposal (10%)**
 - **Description:** Proposal outlining the documentary topic, objectives, and initial ideas.
 - **Due Date:** September 15, 2022
2. **Draft Script (15%)**
 - **Description:** Draft of the documentary script, including narrative structure and dialogue.
 - **Due Date:** October 15, 2022
3. **Production Plan (10%)**
 - **Description:** Detailed plan for production, including schedules, equipment needs, and crew roles.
 - **Due Date:** November 1, 2022
4. **Raw Footage Submission (15%)**
 - **Description:** Submission of unedited footage captured during filming.
 - **Due Date:** December 1, 2022
5. **Rough Cut (15%)**
 - **Description:** Initial edited version of the documentary, including basic cuts and sequencing.
 - **Due Date:** January 15, 2023
6. **Final Cut (20%)**
 - **Description:** Final edited version of the documentary, including sound, color correction, and final touches.

- **Due Date:** February 28, 2023
- 7. **Screening Preparation (10%)**
 - **Description:** Preparation for the final screening, including any additional materials or presentation elements.
 - **Due Date:** March 15, 2023
- 8. **Final Documentary (15%)**
 - **Description:** Completed documentary film presented at the final screening.
 - **Due Date:** March 22, 2023
- 9. **Reflection Report (10%)**
 - **Description:** Reflective report on the production process, challenges faced, and overall learning experience.
 - **Due Date:** April 1, 2023

This syllabus for COM480 provides a structured approach to media production and documentary filmmaking, emphasizing script development, production, and final presentation with clear deliverables and deadlines.