

# **Syllabus: FLM 483: Documentary Filmmaking Capstone**

Course Title: FLM 483: Documentary Filmmaking Capstone

Semester: Fall 2024

Instructor: Prof. David Lee

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Office Hours: Thursdays 2:00-4:30 PM OR by appointment

Class Time & Place: Monday or Wednesday 3:00-4:15 PM in SANCA 645

## **Course Description:**

This capstone course focuses on the production of a documentary film, from research to final cut. Students will develop a documentary project, including research, pre-production, principal photography, and post-production, culminating in a screening or presentation at the Innovation Showcase. The course includes the development of a project proposal, research, and a final report.

## **Course Objectives:**

Produce a documentary film from research to final cut.

Conduct interviews, archival research, and location scouting for the documentary subject.

Edit the documentary, including sound design and color grading.

Effectively present the documentary at the Innovation Showcase.

## **Learning Outcomes:**

Gain expertise in documentary filmmaking and storytelling.

Develop practical skills in research, shooting, and editing.

Improve communication skills through written reports and presentations.

Enhance the ability to manage documentary projects from conception to completion.

## **Group Project and Required Subtasks:**

The group project for this course will involve the production of a documentary film. The project will be broken down into the following subtasks:

### **1. \*\*Project Proposal (Week 3):\*\***

- Create a proposal detailing the subject matter, target audience, and narrative goals for the documentary. Include a timeline and assign roles to team members.

### **2. \*\*Research and Pre-Production (Weeks 4-6):\*\***

- Conduct research on the documentary subject, including interviews, archival research, and location scouting. Plan the production, including the narrative structure and shot list.

### **3. \*\*Principal Photography (Weeks 7-10):\*\***

- Conduct the principal photography, capturing interviews, B-roll, and other necessary footage. Ensure that all elements are captured according to the narrative plan.

### **4. \*\*Post-Production (Weeks 11-12):\*\***

- Edit the documentary, including sound design, visual effects, and color grading. Finalize the documentary for presentation.

### **5. \*\*Final Report and Presentation (Weeks 13-15):\*\***

- Document the entire production process, including challenges, solutions, and outcomes in a final report.
- Prepare a screening or presentation for the Innovation Showcase that highlights the key aspects of the documentary.

Groups are expected to collaborate closely, meeting regularly to discuss progress and resolve any

issues. Instructor check-ins will be scheduled to provide guidance and feedback.

**Evaluation:**

Class meetings (5): 20 points

Individual meetings (3): 12 points

Project Proposal: 10 points

Research and Pre-Production: 15 points

Principal Photography: 18 points

Post-Production: 10 points

Final Report: 10 points

Presentation: 5 points

Poster: 10 points

Total: 100 points

**Course Policies:**

**Attendance and Participation:** Regular attendance and active participation are crucial for success in this course. Students are expected to attend all scheduled class meetings and individual sessions. If a student is unable to attend a class, they should inform the instructor in advance and arrange to complete any missed work.

**Academic Integrity:** All students must adhere to ASU's academic integrity policy. Any form of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will be reported and may result in severe penalties, including a failing grade for the course.

**Accommodations:** Students with disabilities or special needs should contact the ASU Disability Resource Center to arrange appropriate accommodations and notify the instructor as soon as possible.

**Important Dates:**

Class Week 1: Introductions & Project Brainstorming (Aug 26)

Individual Meeting #1: Discuss Ideas and Readings (Sep 4)

Class Week 2: Proposal Presentation & Group Feedback (Sep 18)

Individual Meeting #2: Proposal Feedback & Methods Discussion (Oct 2)

Class Week 3: Revised Proposal Presentation & CERTT Tour (Oct 23)

Individual Meeting #3: Data Analysis & Progress Review (Nov 13)

Class Week 4: Professional Development & Project Discussion (Nov 27)

Innovation Showcase: Final Presentations & Poster Display (Dec 6)