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documentary@uga.edu

UNIV 1120: Documentary @ UGA
Digital Media Literacy
Fall 2017

UNIV 1120, a one-hour course in documentary filmmaking and digital media literacy, helps students make a research-based, 3-5 minute documentary on a subject of their choice, and then publish it on the Internet.

During class we watch selected documentaries, explore research strategies, examine copyright and fair use, and learn various software: iMovie, Adobe Premiere Pro, GarageBand, Photoshop, and more. This one-credit-hour course meets for 50 minutes once a week and is graded pass/fail.

SAMPLE FILM: [“It’s My Process”](#) By Jackson Smith.

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COURSE GOALS

By the end of the semester, students will be familiar with the following concepts and skillsets. *The links in this section are included for exploration on your own.*

Archival Intelligence

- Includes an awareness of genre, medium, and context. [Who made what, when, where, why, how, and for whom?](#)
- [“The Medium is the Message” \(Marshall McLuhan\)](#)

Research Strategies

- [Google Books](#), [Google Scholar](#), [Google N-Gram](#)
- Social Explorer

Copyright and Fair Use

- [Digital Millennium Copyright Act](#) (2010 amendments)
- [Copyright and Fair Use](#) (section 107, U.S. Copyright Act)
- [Code of Best Practices for Fair Use in Online Video](#)
- [YouTube’s Content ID and challenging copyright claims](#)

Narrative Theory

- [The Hero’s Journey](#)
- [The Secret Structure of Great Talks](#)
- [The Art of the Interview](#)

Sound Design

- Mixing shotgun and lavalier microphones
- Creating original background music through GarageBand
- Browsing royalty-free music databases.

Visual Aesthetics

- Resource: [The A-Z of Film](#)
- Resource: [Simple List of Film Terminology](#) (PDF)
- Resource: [Film Language](#)
- The Rule of Thirds
- Centering
- Filling the Frame
- Strong Foreground Elements
- Leading Lines and S Curves
- Camera techniques, tilts and pans, tracking shots,
- Fibonacci and Focal Lengths
- Telephoto vs. Wide-Angle Lenses: flattening and widening planes of space

Web Design

- [Wordpress.com](https://www.wordpress.com)
- [Basic HTML](#)

What makes a great documentary?

- Exercise in empathy
- Makes the familiar strange and the strange familiar
- Midwife to another's passion or story
- The sounds of silence
- Combines the wonder of the child with wisdom of sage
- Involves paradox and negative capability

Course Questions

How do I decide what to film?

In class, we'll go over an acronym that will help you out.

R-elevance

O-riginality

C-ommitment

K-ash

Y-our access

What are my costs?

We have no required text for this course. **You are required to have access to external or network storage to backup your work this semester.** We will discuss backup options in class. Many backup options are free, but we do encourage that you consider a powered external drive if you want to work with video beyond the class.

You can complete your assignments with a zero budget. If you are interested in expanding your filming and editing skills for your personal hobby or career goals, we can suggest **low-or moderate-budget** investments in equipment.

The zero-budget plan

- Use your Smartphone camera (iPhones have great video cameras, but so do other brands)
- OR use a camcorder checked out from the MLC or CTL
- Check out a lavalier (lapel) microphone and tripod kit from your class instructors

CONTACTS

Who are the co-instructors? How do I contact them?

<p>Spenser Simrill Office: 326 Park Hall Office hours: By appointment Email: spenserious@gmail.com spenser@uga.edu</p>	<p>Garrison Bickerstaff Office: 207 Milledge Hall Office hours: By appointment Email: gbick@uga.edu</p>	<p>Sandra E. Riggs Office: 373 Miller Learning Center Office Hours: Usually 9 - Noon except WED, but check in with receptionist. Email: sriggs@uga.edu</p>
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Social Media

Instagram: @ugadocumentaries, #docthedoc

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/univ1120/> - and [Playlist](#)

Rules and Requirements

Brief Course Description: documentary@UGA awards one hour of credit and a grade of Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory. In general, the course introduces students to the computing environment at UGA and the basic software that they might need to produce and publicize a research-based documentary. In particular, the course will cover the following topics:

1. Computing/technical resources on campus for students
2. Digital and electronic research resources
3. Campus computer ethics and security policies and basic copyright law
4. Documentary production software (iMovie, Final Cut Pro, Adobe Premiere, GarageBand)
5. Web authoring via WordPress (basic HTML)

Attendance: Regular attendance is required. **Students are allowed no more than the equivalent of three absences.** Each late arrival counts as one-half an absence. **STUDENTS WHO ACCUMULATE MORE THAN THE EQUIVALENT OF THREE AND A HALF ABSENCES WILL BE GIVEN A WF OR U.**

Communication: It is essential that students check their email accounts and this online syllabus daily for revisions, and announcements.

Course Requirements and Credit: documentary@UGA is a one-hour course that carries regular graduation credit and is graded **Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory**. Students who have received credit for or are currently enrolled in CSCI 1100-1100L will not receive credit for this class.

Course Project and Grading: A Satisfactory grade will be awarded to those students who turn in *all* assignments *and* accrue at least 27 out of 45 points total. Points are distributed as follows:

ASSIGNMENTS AND POINTS

- Topic (5 points)

- Clip Selection/Initial Analysis: This is created on a WordPress website, and presented in class (5 points)
- Bibliography (10 points)
- Treatment (10 points)
- Rough Cut of Doc (approval needed to present, but no points)
- Documentary Final Cut and Website (15 points)

This class will count for credit in The Digital Humanities Research and Innovation certificate. See information at <http://digi.uga.edu/>. There will be a suggested alternative plan for assignments for those in this track. Possible projects include oral histories, mapping, and data visualization (ex: comparison charts, word maps, online mapping).

Late work: [Missing or late work is not accepted unless the student has a documented, reasonable reason for having not turned in the work. Depending on the reason, the instructors may or may not accept it or may impose a grade penalty.](#)

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism* in UNIV 1120 will not be tolerated, and any cases of students presenting the work of others as their own may be subject to discipline. To find out more about what constitutes the inappropriate or illegal use of another's writing, creative work, or ideas, consult the University of Georgia publication [A Culture of Honesty](http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture_honesty.htm) at http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture_honesty.htm. **Students are responsible for knowing and abiding by the policies articulated in that publication.** All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. Students must follow copyright best practices as presented in class.

***In a visual environment, it is important to know what is your footage, and what comes from an archival or other source. However, audio (music) rights are just as important. We will discuss Fair Use exemptions, so please be attentive to the classes that discuss best practices for video and copyright issues.**

Professionalism: In order to maintain a professional atmosphere, students are responsible for reading and abiding by all of UGA's non-discrimination policies, available online at <http://www.uga.edu/eoo/pdfs/NDAH.pdf>. Additionally, **all students who wish to screen their films to the class must show a near-complete rough cut of their documentary to their grading instructor.**

Accommodations: If you plan to request accommodations for a disability, please register with the Disability Resource Center. They can be reached by visiting Clark Howell Hall, calling 706-542-8719 (voice) or 706-542-8778 (TTY), or by visiting <http://drc.uga.edu>.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR CLASS CALENDAR - CHECK DAILY FOR UPDATES

CALENDAR

Info about class location, tasks, and due dates are in **RED**.

DATES	ACTIVITIES & LOCATION
<p>Week 1: Monday Section, August 14 Wednesday Section, August 16</p>	<p>Meet in Miller Learning Center 370 Introductions and explanation of syllabus format</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Watch Ride Free - student doc on cycling in Athens ● Watch It's My Process - student doc ● Introduce syllabus, project assignments, and resources ● For your reference: The topic assignment Rubric.
<p>Week 2: Monday Section, August 21 Wednesday Section, August 23</p>	<p>Go over ROCKY. Explain the process of making a documentary for this class. In class we will watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sriracha - short doc ● How to Write and Produce a Documentary (Starts at :45 - Stop at 7:25) <p>You will also start your WordPress page -- if anyone has any problems with WordPress, please let Sandra or Spenser know! Here are some tips!</p> <p>Check the Flagpole, Red&Black, and the UGA Master calendar for topic ideas.</p> <p>Topic Assignment due TBD: Write down one or two possible topics for our topic workshop next week. This should be a one or two sentence description of the topic, and then a paragraph or so pitching the idea. Use the ROCKY acronym to indicate whether this will work. Is the topic relevant? Is it original? Etc. Bring a copy to next week's class so you can remember points to pitch, but turn in the one that you want to focus on. We'll give instructions in class on how to turn it in.</p>
<p>Week 3:</p>	<p>WEEK 3</p>

<p>Monday Section, August 28 Wednesday Section, August 30</p>	<p>Topic workshop today. Have your topic with you, and be prepared to pitch it to the class. Turn in your topic by putting a short topic description on your WordPress home/front page.</p> <p>Prep for next week's research session by taking a quick look at the Annotated Bib assignment rubric, and Nick and Sandra's Bib's. The Annotated Bib is due TBD. Rubrics for Annotated Bib and other assignments</p>
<p>Labor Day Holiday, Monday, September 4 No class for the Monday section, Wednesday section meets as usual</p>	
<p>Wednesday Section, September 6 Monday Section, September 11</p>	<p>WEEK 4 CLASS ACTIVITIES Research Metaphors: <i>Base of the Iceberg</i> and <i>Transformative Work</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CRAP test and Fake News ● Social Media & Google Tools (Ngram, Trends) Watch Athens as a Food Desert - doc ● Visualizing Stats (ex: Social Explorer) and non-sci data ● Public information and public records (Assessor's office) ● Questions about the Annotated Bib assignment rubric.
<p>Wednesday Section, September 13 Monday Section, September 18</p>	<p>WEEK 5 CLASS ACTIVITIES What are Digital Humanities? CLASS LOCATION CHANGE - Main Library, 3rd floor, DigiLab - turn left (away from the stacks) when you get off the elevators, and look for a glass door on your left.</p>
<p>Wednesday Section, September 20 Monday Section, September 25</p>	<p>WEEK 6 CLASS ACTIVITIES Special Collections Libraries as a Resource</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Watch Finding an Old UGA - student doc ● Georgia Collections: including Town Films and WSB Newsfilm ● Interview Collections ● Watch West Broad Farmer's Market

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Camtasia ○ Skype Recording ○ KeepVid (rip YouTube video clips) ● take a quick look at the Annotated Bib assignment rubric. The Annotated Bib is due TBD. Rubrics for Annotated Bib and other assignments ● See Sources/Annotated Bib samples at Nick Toomey's wordpress, and Sandra's Wordpress ● Optional for sources - Want hanging indents? Use this HTML: <pre>Annotated Bibliography <p style="margin-left:.5in;text-indent:-.5in;"> And close each item with </p></pre> <p>If this is not compatible with your theme for some reason, just omit the indents.</p> <p>Preparing to film, pitching the idea for support (funding, interviews, participation, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● View Spenser's Kickstarter videos: Original Simrill, Rillest Family Reunion, ● View class kits, and a sample CTL camera and lavalier. Overview of MLC and CTL equipment services. Overview of MLC technology lending. ● Wes Anderson: Centered <p>Make plans for your equipment, and begin trying it out. Annotated Bib is due at the end of the day Friday, TBD.</p>
<p>Wednesday Section, September 20 Monday Section, September 25</p>	<p>WEEK 7 CLASS ACTIVITIES Copyright, Legal Soundtrack Music, and Legal Re-mixing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Everything is a Remix Series ● Best Practices for Online Video ● Fair Use from Wikipedia
<p>Wednesday Section, September 27 Monday Section, October 2</p>	<p>WEEK 8 CLASS ACTIVITIES Discuss Treatment Assignment Due date TBD - we'll get your input</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources • Sandra's Treatment example • Introduction to iMovie <p>Check-in -- We'll go round the room to see where everyone is with topics and equipment planning.</p>
<p>Wednesday Section, October 4 Monday Section, October 9</p> <p>Midpoint of Class There is no Mid-term, but to be on track, your should be ready to film. After this week, we will focus on the workshop portion of class.</p>	<p>WEEK 9 CLASS ACTIVITIES Begin Lynda.com training: Use link or access using the UGA Portal. We are covering the "Video Journalism Shooting techniques" set.</p> <p>Lynda.com training: Use link or access using the UGA Portal. We are covering the "Video Journalism Shooting techniques" set.</p> <p>Sandra Riggs will not be in class on Wednesday, October 4, and will be at the Georgia Library Association Conference.</p>
<p>Wednesday Section, October 11 Monday Section, October 16</p>	<p>WEEK 10 CLASS ACTIVITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet in MLC 369 - Bring earbuds! • Treatment due • Documentary workshop: Video editing - Adobe Premiere and/or iMovie as requested. We will have video files for you to make a trailer.
<p>Wednesday Section, October 18 Monday Section, October 23</p>	<p>WEEK 11 CLASS ACTIVITIES Meet in MLC 369</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet in MLC 369 - Bring earbuds! <p>Documentary workshop: Video editing - Adobe Premiere and/or iMovie as requested. We will have video files for you to make a trailer.</p>
<p>Wednesday Section, October 18 Monday Section, October 23</p>	<p>WEEK 12 CLASS ACTIVITIES Documentary workshop day: GarageBand</p> <p>To stay on track to finish on time. You should be</p>

	shooting footage. Try to complete your interviews.
<p>Wednesday Section, October 25</p> <p>Note: Fall Break on October 27 will not affect the class schedule! Classes meet as normal.</p> <p>Monday Section, October 30</p>	<p>WEEK 13 CLASS ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Website workshop and check-in: What do you need to finish up? Your website should be complete by the presentation day. If you need more time, get permission IN ADVANCE.</p>
<p>Wednesday Section, November 1 Monday Section, November 6</p> <p>REMEMBER! Your presentation days are right after you get back from Thanksgiving break, so we MUST see a rough cut before!</p>	<p>WEEK 14 CLASS ACTIVITIES</p> <p>In-class editing session, work on your short film.</p>
<p>Wednesday Section, November 8 Monday Section, November 13</p>	<p>WEEK 15</p> <p>Documentary rough cut due in class</p> <p>If you do not have a rough cut, you will not be penalized for the documentary grade, but you may not be allowed to present the final version in-class.</p>
<p>Wednesday Section, November 15</p> <p>Thanksgiving Break, is November 20-24, causing a gap between the two sections</p> <p>Monday Section, November 27</p>	<p>WEEK 16</p> <p>Take the feedback from your rough cut, and do your final trouble-shooting and editing.</p> <p>HOW TO TURN IN YOUR DOCUMENTARY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upload the video file to YouTube or Vimeo 2. E-mail the video's YouTube or Vimeo site link, <i>not the actual file</i>, to spenser@uga.edu <p>Don't forget that it gets embedded on your website, too!</p> <p>DUE DATE for mailing to the link to Spenser:</p>

Wednesday Section, November 29
Monday Section, December 4

Project Presentations in the Special Collections Library on your normal class day and time in ROOM 258.

Note: If you are inviting people who helped you, or agreed to be interviewed, Sandra will be happy to give you and/or them a tour of the Brown Media Archives before or after class. Please include that option in your invitations.

THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM.

The presentations on the last day of class are the last time we meet.

Check your UGA e-mail for the link to the course evaluations!