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# documentary@uga.edu

**UNIV 1120: Documentary @ UGA**  
**Digital Media Literacy**  
**Fall 2016**

*Et Docere et rerum exquirere causas*

To teach, to serve, and to inquire into the nature of things.

—UGA Motto

Document “to teach the mind”

Record “to bring back to the heart”

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 Fall Semester of 2016, we will partner with the UGA Special Collections Libraries and produce an archives-based documentary. The documentary will bring forward an element from the past, and provide interpretation and context. Think *Raiders of the Lost Ark* meets *Back to the Future*.

"The Vault" at UGA Libraries, Special Collections, is a massive, climate-controlled cavern that spans 30,000 square feet and three underground stories. Among its many treasures, we find the [Brown Media Archives](#): "the only public archive in Georgia devoted solely to the preservation of audiovisual materials."

Of particular interest is the [WSB Newsfilm Collection](#) from 1949 to 1981. More than 5 million feet of raw news footage shows the history of Atlanta and the Southeast. Its

coverage spans the entire civil rights movement—including desegregation at the University of Georgia—and much of the Cold War.

The Brown Media Archives also contains the Peabody Awards Collection, the Nixon/Gannon interviews, town films, home movies, and other footage related to Athens and to the University of Georgia.

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.

# **RAIDERS** *of the* **LOST** **ARCHIVES**

documentary@UGA and  
UGA Special Collections  
Libraries now bring you  
the ultimate hero in the  
ultimate adventure.

**UNIV 1120**  
**DOCUMENTARY FILM**  
**DIGITAL MEDIA LITERACY**



13428 - UNIV 1120 - 2:30-3:20 M  
13482 - UNIV 1120 - 3:35-4:25 M  
13484 - UNIV 1120 - 2:30-3:20 W

**ONE HOUR**  
**PASS/FAIL**

## **COURSE GOALS**

By the end of the semester, students will be familiar with the following concepts and skillsets. Links 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**

- 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](http://Wordpress.com) vs. [Wordpress.org](http://Wordpress.org)
- [Medium.com](http://Medium.com)
- [Basic HTML](#)

## What makes a great documentary?

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

## 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.

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.

### No-budget plan

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

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

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

Class 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 as well.

**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

- Clip Selection/Initial Analysis: This is created on a WordPress website, and presented in class (5 points)

- Bibliography (10 points)
- Treatment, including Clip Analysis (15 points)
- Rough Cut of Doc (approved, 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 [here](#). There will be a suggested alternative plan for assignments for those in this track.

**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](#) at [http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture\\_honesty.htm](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.

**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.**

**Special Needs:** Students with special needs are invited and encouraged to discuss them with the instructor.

There are TWO SECTIONS. Assignments and class activities for BOTH sections are listed on the calendar. Please make sure you are looking at the right day for your section, Monday or Wednesday, on the class calendar.

**(13428)** meets weekly Mondays @ 2:30

**(13884)** meets weekly Wednesdays @ 2:30

**SEE NEXT PAGE FOR CLASS CALENDAR - CHECK DAILY FOR UPDATES**

Changes in location, tasks, and due dates are in **RED**.

DATES	ACTIVITIES & LOCATION
<p><b>Week 1: DATES</b>            (Monday section) <b>Aug. 15</b>            (Wednesday section) <b>Aug. 17</b></p>	<p><b>Week 1: ACTIVITIES &amp; LOCATION</b>  <b>Meet in Miller Learning Center 370</b>            Introduction to the course and instructors.            Explanation of syllabus format and links.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Watch <a href="#">Finding an Old UGA</a> - student doc</li> <li>● Watch <a href="#">How to Write and Produce a Documentary</a> (Starts at :45 - Stop at 7:25)</li> <li>● Introduce project assignments</li> </ul> <p><b>In Class: Create WordPress account</b>            We will just create the account today. For your assignments, we will give you a list of the required style and web page elements.  <b>Next week is a location change!</b></p>
<p><b>Week 2</b>            (Monday section) <b>Aug. 22</b>            (Wednesday section) <b>Aug. 24</b></p>	<p><b>WEEK 2</b>  <b>Meet at the Special Collections Library, 1st floor security desk - this is NOT the Main Library.</b>            Map: <a href="#">HERE</a>            Image of building and other info: <a href="#">HERE</a>            Restrooms are the second floor across from the Media Gallery.</p> <p>Introduction to the media gallery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Georgia Collections</a>: including Town Films and WSB Newsfilm</li> <li>● <a href="#">Interview Collections</a></li> </ul> <p>Pass out rubric/instructions for assignment due on Week 5.</p> <p><b>Please note:</b> Even though the SCL is next to the Hull Street Parking deck, UGA students who have parking privileges elsewhere on campus are prohibited from parking in the there. Only campus visitors, or those with Hull W05 window tags, can use Hull. Walk over or take the bus.</p> <p><b>Next week is at Special Collections</b></p>

<p><b>Week 3</b>  (Monday section) <b>Aug. 29</b>  (Wednesday section) <b>Aug 31</b></p>	<p><b>WEEK 3</b>  <b>Meet at the Special Collections Library, 3rd floor classroom 329.</b> Due to part of class being a tour, be on time, or we may have to leave you behind!</p> <p>Searching and retrieving archival materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro to Aeon - <b>Create your researcher account</b></li> <li>• If we have time - <b>Create your WordPress account</b> - if you already have a WordPress account that's fine. Just make a new site.</li> <li>• Vault tour</li> </ul> <p>Please note: Parking rules as last week</p>
<p><b>LABOR DAY</b></p>	<p><b>The Monday section does not have class, and so moves behind the Wednesday section.</b></p>
<p><b>Week 4: DATES</b>  (Wednesday section) <b>Sep. 7</b>  (Monday section) <b>Sep. 12</b></p>	<p><b>WEEK 4</b>  <b>Meet at the Special Collections Library, 3rd floor classroom 329</b>  Map: <a href="#">HERE</a>  Image of building and other info: <a href="#">HERE</a></p> <p>Behind the Scenes: Conversation with an Archivist</p> <p>Please note: Parking rules as last week  <b>Next week is a location change!</b></p>
<p><b>Week 5: DATES</b>  (Wednesday section) <b>Sep. 14</b>  (Monday section) <b>Sep. 19</b></p> <p>Co-instructor Sandra Riggs will not be class on Sept. 19</p>	<p><b>WEEK 5</b>  <b>Meet at Miller Learning Center 370</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DUE TODAY: Clip analysis presentations</b></li> <li>• Introduce annotated bib - "Sources" assignment - See examples 1 2 (Sandra's Sherlock site)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 6: DATES</b>  (Wednesday section) <b>Sep. 21</b>  (Monday section) <b>Sep. 26</b></p> <p>Co-instructor Sandra Riggs will not be</p>	<p><b>WEEK 6</b>  <b>Meet at Miller Learning Center 370</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• View equipment kits. Overview of MLC and <a href="#">CTL equipment services</a>. Guest: Germaine</li> </ul>



<p>class on Sept. 21</p>	<p>Cahoon, who is in charge of <a href="#">MLC technology lending</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch <a href="#">West Broad Farmer's Market</a> or UGArden documentary</li> <li>• <b>Begin <a href="#">Lynda.com</a> training:</b> Use link or access using the UGA Portal. We are covering the "Video Journalism Shooting techniques" set.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Wes Anderson: Centered</a></li> </ul> <p>Make plans for your equipment.</p>
<p><b>Week 7: DATES</b>  (Wednesday section) <b>Sep. 28</b>  (Monday section) <b>Oct. 3</b></p>	<p><b>WEEK 7 CLASS ACTIVITIES</b>  <b>Meet at Miller Learning Center 370</b>  Research Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visualizing Stats (ex: <a href="#">Social Explorer</a>)</li> <li>• Social Media &amp; Google Tools</li> <li>• Public information</li> </ul> <p>Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• View Spenser's Kickstarter videos: <a href="#">Original Simrill</a>, <a href="#">Rillest Family Reunion</a>,</li> <li>• Watch <a href="#">Athens as a Food Desert</a> - student doc</li> </ul> <p>Decided on your equipment? Film test footage!</p>
<p><b>Week 8: DATES</b>  (Wednesday section) <b>Oct. 5</b>  (Monday section) <b>Oct. 10</b></p>	<p><b>WEEK 8 CLASS ACTIVITIES</b>  <b>Meet at Miller Learning Center 369</b>  Copyright, Legal Soundtrack Music, and Legal Re-mixing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Everything is a Remix Series</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Best Practices for Online Video</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Fair Use</a> from Wikipedia</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 9: DATES</b>  (Wednesday section) <b>Oct. 12</b>  (Monday section) <b>Oct. 17</b></p>	<p><b>WEEK 9</b>  <b>Meet in MLC 369 for the next 4 classes.</b> This is the classroom to the right of our regular room. Also to make sure that you <b>have earbuds with you for the all the workshops.</b></p> <p><b>Discuss Treatment Assignment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Resources</a></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Evan Krop's Treatment page</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Sandra's Treatment example</a></li> <li>• (Due date TBD)</li> <li>• Introduction to iMovie - make a trailer</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 10: DATES</b>  (Wednesday section) <b>Oct. 19</b>  (Monday section) <b>Oct. 24</b></p>	<p><b>WEEK 10</b>  <b>Meet in MLC 369</b>  Documentary workshop: Video editing - Adobe Premiere or iMovie as requested. Have some test footage to practice editing.</p>
<p><b>Week 11: DATES</b>  (Wednesday section) <b>Oct. 26</b></p> <p><b>FALL BREAK Oct. 28 does not affect class dates</b></p> <p>(Monday section) <b>Oct. 31</b></p>	<p><b>WEEK 11</b>  <b>Meet in MLC 369 - Bring earbuds!</b>  Documentary workshop day: GarageBand</p> <p><b>You should be filming, or at least have your interviews scheduled.</b></p>
<p><b>Week 12: DATES</b>  (Wednesday section) <b>Nov. 2</b>  (Monday section) <b>Nov. 7</b></p>	<p><b>WEEK 12</b>  <b>Meet in MLC 369</b>  Workshop Day: Video editing or website help depending on your needs.</p> <p>You should be editing your documentary, or at least have most of your footage.</p>
<p><b>Week 13: DATES</b>  (Wednesday section) <b>Nov. 9</b>  (Monday section) <b>Nov. 14</b></p>	<p><b>WEEK 13 CLASS ACTIVITIES</b>  <b>Meet in MLC 369</b>  Workshop day: Video editing or website help depending on your needs.</p> <p><b>Documentary rough cut due in class.</b></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><b>Week 14: DATES</b>  (Wednesday section) <b>Nov. 16</b></p>	<p><b>WEEK 14 CLASS ACTIVITIES</b>  <b>Come to MLC 370</b> and take the course survey. If you need assistance with your project, or have questions</p>

<p><b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>  <b>No classes November 21 and 23</b></p> <p>(Monday section) <b>Nov. 28</b></p>	<p>before finishing your final cut, <b>instructors will be available in MLC 369</b>. We'll have two rooms because we can't be in the same room while you take the survey, and we want to be available for editing help.</p> <p><b>HOW TO TURN IN YOUR DOCUMENTARY</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Upload the video file to YouTube or Vimeo</li> <li>2. E-mail the web link, <i>not the actual file</i>, to <a href="mailto:spenser@uga.edu">spenser@uga.edu</a></li> </ol>
<p><b>Week 15: DATES</b>  (Wednesday section) <b>Nov. 30</b>  (Monday section) <b>Dec. 5</b></p>	<p><b>WEEK 15</b>  <b>Project Presentations in Special Collections</b>  <u><b>on your normal class day and time</b></u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM.</b>  <b>The presentations on the last day of class are the last time we meet.</b></p>

***UNIV 1120 is funded solely by the UGA Student Technology Fee.***