



**Division of
Academic Enhancement
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

**UNIV 1120 - Documentary@UGA
Spring 2018**

Course Instructor Information

Instructor: Spenser Simrill, Ph.D.
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Course Meeting Information

Monday, 3:35-4:25 pm
MLC 370, 369

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UNIV Courses are offered by the Division of Academic Enhancement, a unit of the Office of Instruction at the University of Georgia. The Division empowers all students to achieve success with innovative courses, programs, services, and student-centered initiatives. The DAE supports students as they transition into higher education and sustains their progress through the University's unique academic environment. We are committed to students, committed to success.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

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 FILMS: [“It’s My Process”](#) By Jackson Smith
[“Mythology of the Arch”](#) by Du Obichi

COURSE GOALS

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

Documentary Evaluation

How do I decide what to film? Filmmaker Anthony Artis has developed the [ROCKY acronym](#).

R-elevance.

O-riginality

C-ommitment

K-ash

Y-our access

If you make it will anyone care? Is the timing right? How is your documentary different from the other six documentaries on Tupac? How long/hard will this shoot be? Are you committed to that? How much will it cost? Can you afford travel and other expenses? Can you gain entry into the world you want to show?

Source: [The Shut Up and Shoot Documentary Guide](#), CRC Press, 2014.

Persuasive Planning

- [8 Tips on Pitching your Project](#)

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](#)
- Compositional techniques: The Rule of Thirds, Centering, Filling the Frame, Strong Foreground Elements, Leading Lines and S Curves, Reflections and Shadows
- Camera techniques, tilts and pans, tracking shots, slow motion vs. time-lapse
- Fibonacci and Focal Lengths
- [Telephoto vs. Wide-Angle Lenses](#): flattening and widening planes of space

Web Design

- [Wordpress.com](#)
- [Basic HTML](#)

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" \(Marshall McLuhan\)](#)

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

What are my costs? Are there any required purchases?

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.** *Every semester someone loses video files.* If you don't backup, you may have to take additional time to reshoot material.

We will discuss backup options in class. Many backup options are free (Google Drive, DropBox, iCloud), but *we do encourage you to consider purchasing a powered external drive, especially 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 options

Filming and Recording

- Use your Smartphone camera
- OR use a camcorder checked out from the MLC or CTL lending programs
- OR borrow a camera from a friend, and transfer your files to a backup
- Check out a lavalier (lapel) microphone and tripod kit from your class instructors
- Check out smart phone lens accessories from the MLC Lending program

Video-editing

- Use your own Mac computer with iMovie OR
- Use the MLC Digital Media Lab tower Macs, or open carrel iMacs. They have both iMovie and Adobe Premiere options, but you'll need to backup files, since you can't save files onto the lab machines. There are also Mac laptops in our editing classroom.

Please let us know if there is an issue that prevents you from using the Mac labs.

CLASS GUIDES, RESOURCES, AND LINKS

- <http://guides.libs.uga.edu/documentaries> - Pages on how to watch and make documentaries; as well as how to connect with other student filmmakers
- <https://www.onlinevideocontests.com/tags/students> - Lists of video contests or festival competitions
- 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)

Participation Policy: 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.**

In the event that the university cancels classes, such as for severe weather, students are expected to continue with readings as originally scheduled. Any assignments scheduled during those missed classes, such as a project or paper, are due at the next class meeting unless other instructions are posted at the course website or communicated via email.

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)
- Bibliography (10 points)
- Treatment (10 points)
- Rough Cut of Doc (show for approval to present, but no points)
- Documentary Final Cut and Website (20 total points)

This class will count for credit in The Digital Humanities Research and Innovation certificate. See information [at http://digi.uga.edu/](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:

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at: <https://ovpi.uga.edu/academic-honesty/academic-honesty-policy>. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

***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.**

Special Needs: If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with me. I would like us to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with the Disability Resource Center (Voice: 706-542-8719 or TTY: 706-542-8778) and notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. We can

then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

Other Division Resources: From peer tutoring through the Academic Resource Center to Academic Coaching to Student Success Workshops and more, the Division is committed to the success of all students at the University of Georgia. For more on these and other resources, visit <https://dae.uga.edu>.

CLASS CALENDAR

Due dates are in **RED**. Items marked to do “if there is time” are usually moved to the next class if not covered. Check this Class Calendar for changes in what is being covered in class.

DATES	LOCATION & ACTIVITIES
<p>Week 1: Monday, January 8</p> <p>Last day of Drop/Add is Jan 10</p>	<p>Meet in Miller Learning Center 370</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introductions ● Discuss syllabus ● We watched sample student documentaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Our class YouTube Playlist is http://bit.ly/1120Playlist ○ Du Obichi - Mythology of the Arch, https://vimeo.com/245308076 ○ Josh Fricker - Herschel Walker Statue Documentary https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrXJeUuAvTc&t=1s <p>Start thinking about topics and check the Flagpole, Red&Black, and the UGA Master calendar for ideas. If there’s something you enjoy or feel passionate about, that’s the best bet. Here is the topic assignment Grading Rubric. Will also be given as a handout.</p>
<p>Week 2: Monday, January 15</p>	<p>NO CLASS FOR MLK JR DAY No assignment over break, but think about possible documentary topics.</p>
<p>Week 3: Monday, January 22</p>	<p>Meet in Miller Learning Center 370</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introductions continued ● Make a WordPress static (not blog) page. The topic description and other assignments are “turned in” just by being on your WordPress website. Give us the URL, and we will check the page whenever items are due. WordPress recently changed their interface so we will give you a new PDF guide in class. ● Handout the topic rubric ● Go over ROCKY <p>How to prepare for next week’s Topic Workshop: Write down one or</p>

	<p>two possible topics. This should be a one or two sentence description of the topic, and a sentence or two pitching the idea. Use the ROCKY acronym to ask questions. Is the topic relevant? Is it original? Etc. Bring a copy of your notes to next week's class so you can remember points to pitch.</p>
<p>Week 4: Monday, January 29</p>	<p>Meet in Miller Learning Center 370</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Topic workshop today. Each person will verbally pitch one or two topics to the class. Receive and give feedback. Make note of comments and reactions. Is the topic interesting? What advice would you give to someone about their topic? <p>Mentioned: https://www.ted.com/talks/nancy_duarte_the_secret_structure_of_great_talks - The Structure of Great Talks</p> <p>Topic assignment: Using feedback from the workshop, write a description of your topic in 2-3 short paragraphs. Examples of topic descriptions: Sandra's "The Project" and Nick Toomey's wordpress</p>
<p>Week 5: Monday, February 5</p>	<p>Meet in Miller Learning Center 370</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Please turn in your WordPress URL today ● Watch How to Write and Produce a Documentary (Starts at :45 - Stop at 7:25) ● Watch a bit of the finished Sriracha documentary ● Discussion on the documentary process. <p>Post 1-2 paragraphs of topic description on the Homepage of your WordPress site by end of day on Friday, February 9.</p> <p>Rubrics for Annotated Bib and other assignments also given as a handout</p>
<p>Week 6: Monday, February 12</p>	<p>Meet in Miller Learning Center 370</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss Annotated Bib assignment and see examples at Nick Toomey's Wordpress, and Sandra's Wordpress ● Watch Finding an Old UGA if there is time ● Watch Athens as a Food Desert if there is time. <p>(Watching previous UNIV1120 videos might become "homework" as we have a lot to cover)</p> <p>Research Metaphors: <i>The Base of the Iceberg</i> and <i>Transformative Work</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The No-Spin Zone: How Journalistic Documentaries Check Their

	<p>Facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Misleading documentaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staging vs. Bad Information vs. Omission ● General advice on evaluating sources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CRAP tests and other quick evaluation lists ○ Fake news <p>Nifty tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social Media & Google Tools (Ngram, Trends) ● Visualizing Stats (ex: Social Explorer) and non-sci data ● Public information and public records (ex: Assessor's office) <p>All items covered as time allows - You may need to explore some links on your own if we run out of time.</p>
<p>Week 7: Monday, February 19</p>	<p>**Meet at the Special Collections Libraries Building, 2nd floor rotunda The SCL is off Lumpkin, next to the Hull Street parking deck, and in front of the new Correll Hall Business Learning Center building. http://www.libs.uga.edu/locations/special_collections</p> <p>Research and the Role of Archival Footage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meet Margie Compton (from the Finding an Old Uga doc) ● Post your Annotated Bib to your WordPress page by the end of the day Friday 2/23. Rubrics for Annotated Bib and other assignments
<p>Week 8: Monday, February 26</p> <p>This is the midpoint of the class. There is no Mid-term.</p>	<p>Meet in Miller Learning Center 370 Discuss Treatment Assignment The treatment is about preparing to film and pitching the idea for support (funding, interviews, participation, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● See Treatment samples at Nick Toomey's wordpress, and Sandra's Wordpress <p>Copyright, Legal Soundtrack Music, and Legal Remixing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Everything is a Remix Series ● Best Practices for Online Video ● Fair Use from Wikipedia ● GirlITalk - Wikipedia - website ● 2 Live Crew's version of Pretty Woman - Campbell v. Acuff-Rose Music ● Copyright on YouTube - CounterNotification (dispute that you infringe copyright - i.e. you were taken down by error)
<p>Week 9: Monday, March 5</p>	<p>Meet in Miller Learning Center 370</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● View class kits. Overview of MLC and CTL lending.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spenser will give camera selection and filming advice <p>To be on track to get your project done on time, please decide what equipment you will use to film, and practice filming.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin Lynda training: Use link or the UGA Portal. We are covering the “Video Journalism Shooting techniques” set of training videos. We will cover important parts in class, but spending time looking at Lynda outside of class will benefit your filming. <p>Post your Treatment to your WordPress page by the end of the day Friday 3/9. Rubric for Treatment and other assignments</p>
<p>Week 10: M, March 12</p>	<p>NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK MARCH 12-16 No assignment over break, but consider using a little time to work on your documentary planning or filming.</p>
<p>Week 11: Monday, March 19 Withdrawal Deadline is TODAY</p>	<p>CLASSROOM LOCATION CHANGE - Meet in MLC 369 for 5 class sessions</p> <p>Discuss requirements for Website and Documentary Rubric for assignments</p> <p>Additional Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Camtasia (screen capture) ○ Skype Recording (list of options) ○ KeepVid (rip YouTube video clips) ○ https://clipgrab.org/ (rip YouTube video clips) <p>Watch videos if is there is time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spenser’s Video - “Driving the Juke Joint Trail” in the New York Times • West Broad Farmer’s Market • View NerdWriter analysis of Casey Neistat, and Casey’s channel at https://www.youtube.com/user/caseyneistat • Wes Anderson: Centered
<p>Week 12: Monday, March 26</p>	<p>Meet in MLC 369 and bring earbuds/headphones Video editing workshop: Adobe Premiere and/or iMovie</p> <p>Handout of presentation day invitations. Give to any guests (interviewees, helpers) you’d like to invite to our Presentation Day.</p>
<p>Week 14: Monday, April 2</p>	<p>Meet in MLC 369 and bring earbuds/headphones GarageBand Workshop Day</p>

<p>Week 15: Monday, April 9</p>	<p>Meet in MLC 369 and bring earbuds/headphones</p> <p>More GarageBand and Check-in Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audio-editing/music apps that work with GarageBand http://guides.libs.uga.edu/iosmusicforvideo • Show us where you are with your editing. We can review rough cuts if you have one. <p>Next week is the due date for rough cuts. 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 to guests on the presentation date.</p>
<p>Week 16: Monday, April 16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Check your UGA email for a link to the course evaluations</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Last workshop day and last chance for us to see a rough cut!</p> <p>HOW TO TURN IN YOUR DOCUMENTARY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upload the finished 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 3. Don't forget that it gets embedded on your website home/front page, too! <p>Due Friday, April 20 at 5 p.m. If you cannot get your film in by this time, and have not discussed being late prior, e-mail both Spenser and Sandra about the reason.</p> <p>HOW TO TURN IN YOUR WEBSITE</p> <p>If you have not changed your URL during the semester, you do not have to do anything. We will look at our class spreadsheet of URLs to review. If you have changed your URL, it is your responsibility to make sure we have the new one. E-Mail the new URL to both Spenser (spenser@uga.edu) and Sandra (sriggs@uga.edu).</p>
<p>Week 17: Monday, April 23</p>	<p>Meet in the Special Collections Library, room 277, for Project Presentations</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The presentations on the last day of class are the last time we meet. Your website should be finalized by this date. You must notify us in advance if you need extra time!</p>

