

Intro to Documentary Studies

Film 3100 | Room: | Mon/Wed 10:30am~11:50am

Professor Simon McEnteggart
Email: simon.mcenteggart@utah.edu
Office: U724
Office Hours: (or by appointment)

Course Description

Intro to Documentary Studies is a course designed to provide students with theoretical and practical skills regarding the documentary film form.

During the first half of the semester, students will study documentary film theory, form, ethical debates, construction of an engaging/persuasive 'voice', and the variety of modes and their functions.

In the second half of the semester the course switches to a practical focus as students pitch their individual projects, then plan, produce, and edit a short documentary film production.

Note: This course is a mixture of both theoretical and practical skills.

• **Core Reading Material:**

Textbook: *Introduction to Documentary: Third Edition*, by Bill Nichols

Select book chapters from other sources will also be uploaded on canvas.

• **Course Objectives:**

Through lecture/seminar hybrid classes during the first half of the semester, students will study the theories integral to documentary studies as well as analyzing a selection of some of the most celebrated documentary films. This will culminate in a midterm examination. During the second half of the semester, each student will employ their knowledge in planning and producing a short documentary film. By the end of the course, each student will have a short documentary film for their portfolio.

• **Grading:**

Attendance -	10%
Classroom Discussion -	10%
Midterm Exam -	20%
Documentary Pitch -	10%
Documentary Script -	10%
Documentary Film -	20%
Documentary Paper Edit -	10%
Critical Evaluation -	10%
Extra Credit -	5%

- **Attendance (10%):**

Students must attend classes on time in order to receive full attendance points. Students who arrive up to 5 minutes late will receive a late mark, which gives 80% of the attendance points for that particular class. Students who arrive more than 5 minutes late to class will receive an 'absent' mark, and will receive 0% for that particular lesson.

Zoom Classes - students **must** be sitting at a desk during classes if they are held online. If a student is not at a desk (for example, on public transport), the student will be removed from the online class.

Absences - Students are allowed a total of 5 class absences throughout the semester. If a student is absent for more than 5 classes, a meeting will be held to discuss the student's future on the course. Students who have extenuating circumstances must contact the professor to explain absences.

- **Classroom Discussion (10%):**

Students must participate in class by either asking a question, answering a question, or contributing to the discussion. When students contribute to class discussions, Professor McEnteggart will record it, and the total discussion points will be added up to determine the discussion score. Students must participate at least 10 times each during the semester to receive full credit.

- **Midterm Examination (20%):**

The midterm examination will feature questions related to the first 5 weeks of lessons. The exam will contain a mixture of multiple choice questions, and short essay questions. The films selected for each week of the course will also feature in the midterm exam.

- **Documentary Pitch (10%):**

Each student will present a documentary pitch to the class. The pitch will be a PPT presentation that will state the subject/theme of their project; the style of documentary the student wishes to create; the plan for the shoot (personnel, locations, materials, etc); the target audience; and why the documentary subject is important. Pitches should be around 5~6 minutes in length (no longer than 10 minutes in total).

Note: Any documentary projects that promote/incite discrimination and/or hate speech will not be tolerated.

- **Documentary Script (10%):**

Students will write a script for their documentary production, approximately 3~5 pages in length. The script will express the style of documentary filmmaking the student wishes to produce, featuring interview subjects, locations, archive material, and so on.

- **Documentary Film (20%):**

Each student will plan, produce, and edit a short documentary film. The short film must contain at least one interview, archive materials, and b-roll footage. All films will be screened in class at the end of the semester.

- **Documentary Paper Edit (10%):**

Following the completion of the production, students will watch their footage and the additional materials they discovered during the production period and create a paper edit. A paper edit is effectively a storyboard for a documentary, the construction of which will help prepare students for the editing process.

- **Critical Evaluation (10%):**

Following the completion of the short documentary film, students must write a critical evaluation regarding the production process. The evaluation must be at least three pages in length and examination the pre-production, production, and post-production areas in terms of effectiveness and plans for future improvement.

- **Extra Credit (5%):**

Students may receive extra credit if they participate in the film competition arranged by Professor Dustin Schwindt and Professor Simon McEnteggart that will take place during the semester.

Semester and Class Schedule

• Week 1 - Welcome to the Intro to Documentary Studies Course

Monday, Feb 22nd

- Course Introduction

Wednesday, Feb 24th

- What is a Documentary?

Film: *The Social Dilemma* (2020) - director Jeff Orlowski

Reading: N/A

• Week 2 - Ethical Dilemmas in Documentary Filmmaking

Monday, March 1st

- NO CLASS (Independence Day)

Wednesday, March 3rd

- Ethics and the Documentary

Film: *The Thin Blue Line* (1988) - director Errol Morris

Reading: *Chapter 2 - Why Are Ethical Issues Central to Documentary Filmmaking?*, p29

• Week 3 - Documentary Identity

Monday, March 8th

- The Documentary Voice

Wednesday, March 10th

- Engagement and Persuasion in Documentary Filmmaking

Film: *Hoop Dreams* (1994) - director Steve James

Reading: *Chapter 3 - What Gives Documentaries a Voice of Their Own?*, p48

• Week 4 - Documentary Filmmaking Modes

Monday, March 15th

- Poetic, Expository, and Reflexive Modes

Wednesday, March 17th

- Observational, Participatory, and Performative Modes

Film: *Grizzly Man* (2005) - director Werner Herzog

Reading: *Chapter 6 - How Can We Differentiate among Documentary Models and Modes? What are the Poetic, Expository, and Reflexive Modes?*, p104

• Week 5 - The Impact of Documentary Film

Monday, March 22nd

- Political and Social Issues in the Documentary Film

Wednesday, March 24th

- Crafting a Documentary Film

Film: *Paris is Burning* (1990) - director Jennie Livingston

Reading: *Chapter 7 - How Can We Describe the Observational, Participatory, and Performative Modes of Documentary Film?*, p132

• Week 6 - MIDTERM EXAM

Monday, March 29th - MIDTERM EXAM

Wednesday, March 31st - NO CLASS

• **Week 7 - Documentary Pitching**

Monday, April 5th

- Documentary Pitches

Wednesday, April 7th

- Documentary Pitches

Film: *Citizenfour* (2014) - director Laura Poitras

Reading: *Chapter 10 - I Want to Make a Documentary. Where Do I Start?*, p209

• **Week 8 - Setting Up a Documentary Production**

Monday, April 12th

- The Camera Set-up

Wednesday, April 14th

- The Sound Set-up

Film: *Pina* (2011) - director Wim Wenders

Reading:

• **Week 9 - Documentary Production 1**

Monday, April 19th

Wednesday, April 21st

Film: N/A

Reading: N/A

• **Week 10 - Documentary Production 2**

Monday, April 26th

Wednesday, April 28th

Film: N/A

Reading: N/A

• **Week 11 - Editing 1**

Monday, May 3rd

- Editing 1

Wednesday, May 5th

- NO CLASS (Children's Day)

Film: *13th* (2016) - director Ava DuVernay

Reading: N/A

• **Week 12 - Editing 2**

Monday, May 10th

Wednesday, May 12th

Film: *Honeyland* (2019) - directors Tamara Kotevska and Ljubomir Stefanov

Reading: N/A

• **Week 13 - Conferences with Professor McEnteggart**

Monday, May 17th

Wednesday, May 19th

Film: N/A

Reading: N/A

• **Week 14 - Sound Editing & Re-Editing 3**

Monday, May 24th

Wednesday, May 26th

Film: N/A

Reading: N/A

Students ***must*** submit the final edit of their documentary short film to the professor by **9am on Monday 31st of May.**

• **Week 15 - Short Documentary Film Screenings**

Monday, May 31st

• Screening Student Short Films & Feedback - Part 1

Wednesday, June 2nd

• Screening Student Short Films & Feedback - Part 2

Film: N/A

UAC COVID-19 Information

• If Intro to Documentary Studies moves online:

- *The University of Utah Asia Campus requires that all students turn on their cameras during the entire course and post their full name in English.*
- *Students must be seated at a desk during class time. Students who enter the online classes while traveling will be given an 'absent' grade for that class.*
- *Exams will also be taken online.*
- *If a student has financial difficulty obtaining the appropriate equipment for online courses, the UAC can help provide resources.*

Campus Levels

To effectively navigate the COVID-19 challenges, the University of Utah Asia Campus has developed decision rules and institutional protocol. Knowing that reducing risk to zero is impossible, we will follow public health and safety guidelines to minimize risks. We will utilize the Korean Center for Disease Control, the Utah Department of Health and the US CDC coronavirus guidelines as our main reference points for our ongoing assessment of risk and decision-making process.

The University will enact appropriate procedures based on the current situation within Korea. Once the University has moved up a level, for example, from Yellow to Orange, we will not move down until the start of the next term. If the University must engage a new level, all coursework and operations of the University will pause for three working days. This pause will allow faculty and students to modify their behaviors and coursework to meet the new expectations. The University has set the following two priorities for guiding all in-person course format as we move upward in levels: laboratory, practicum, and studio courses that provide essential experiential education will be in-person and best fit/interest for the course.

*Please note that we are planning to start the Fall Term at the **Yellow Level.***

Green

Decision Markers

- Cases under 30 per day for a sustained period
- Official government notice to return to unrestricted options

UAC Operations

- Face masks not required inside of the classroom
- Unrestricted building access
- No social distancing

Yellow

Decision Markers

- Korean Cases between 30 – 100 per day for a sustained period
- Official government notice for social distancing and other health practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19

UAC Operations

- Student and faculty required to wear masks inside of classroom
- Building access restricted
- Daily temperature checking
- Social distancing within classroom

Orange

Decision Markers

- Korean cases over 100 per day for a sustained period
- Local (Seoul metropolitan areas, Gyeonggi Province, Incheon) cases between 50 -75 per day for a sustained period

- Official notice of “super-spreader” or local cluster
- Official government notice for stricter social distancing and other health practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19

UAC Operations

- Hybrid offerings for courses
- Building access and movement within restricted
- Daily temperature checking

Red

Decision Markers

- Confirmed COVID-19 case with Incheon Global Campus
- Korean cases over 150 per day for a sustained period
- Local (Seoul metropolitan areas, Gyeonggi Province, Incheon) cases over 75 per day for a sustained period
- Official government notice for stricter social distancing and other health practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19

UAC Operations

- Courses moved to online except for those that require a practical component
- Building access and movement within restricted
- Daily temperature checking

Official Excused Absences – if you have COVID-19 symptoms, including fever or respiratory symptoms such as cough, phlegm, sore throat, and nasal congestion, you should notify your instructor immediately and stay home for three days. You can return to class if you are clear from COVID-19 symptoms. In order to be excused from your courses, you will need an official medical certification.

If you are going to be absent from an exam, you must email the Dean of Student at randy.mccrillis@utah.edu prior to the exam.

Self-quarantine Statement

The University of Utah Asia Campus expects regular attendance at all class meetings. Given the current situation with COVID-19, we have created the following guidelines.

1. If a student has completed less than 50% of the course and is required to self-quarantine, we suggest that the student withdraw from the course. In this situation, all tuition will be refunded with appropriate medical documentation
2. If a student has completed 50-75% of the course and is required to self-quarantine, the Dean of Students Office will work with the faculty and student to determine the best scenario. If the decision is to withdraw from a course, all tuition will be refunded with appropriate medical documentation.
3. If a student has completed over 75% of the course and is required to self-quarantine, the student and faculty will work together to ensure that the student is able to complete the course. If the student is unable to finish all coursework during the course, a student may receive the mark “I” (incomplete) and work to complete all remaining coursework in consultation with the instructor.

UNIVERSITY AND COURSE POLICIES

1. The Americans with Disabilities Act. The University of Utah Asia Campus seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the UAC Office of the Dean of Students, 804 Utah Building, 032-626-6002. The UAC Office of the Dean of Students will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the UAC Office of the Dean of Students.

2. Campus Safety. The University of Utah Asia Campus values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call the Dean of Students during work hours at 032-626-6006 or after hours at 010-6241-6004. You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.

3. Addressing Sexual Misconduct. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/ expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the UAC Office of the Dean of Students, 804 Utah Building, 032-626-6002. For support and confidential consultation, contact the UAC Mental Health Counseling, 3052 Multi-complex Building, 032-626-6142 or <http://appointmentwithjan.as.me>.

4. Student Code of Conduct. All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting as outlined in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, Policy 6-400 of the University Regulations Library (<http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html>).

5. Wellness Statement. Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah Asia Campus. For helpful resources, contact the UAC Mental Health Counseling Center; asiacampus.utah.edu/mental-health-counseling-center/; 032-626-6142.

Academic Misconduct

Academic Misconduct includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information, as defined further below. It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct.

1. "Cheating" involves the unauthorized possession or use of information, materials, notes, study aids, or other devices in any academic exercise, or the unauthorized communication with another person during such an exercise. Common examples of cheating include, but are not limited to, copying from another student's examination, submitting work for an in-class exam that has been prepared in advance, violating rules governing the administration of exams, having another person take an exam, altering one's work after the work has been returned and before resubmitting it, or violating any rules relating to academic conduct of a course or program.
2. Misrepresenting one's work includes, but is not limited to, representing material prepared by another as one's own work, or submitting the same work in more than one course without prior permission of both faculty members.
3. "Plagiarism" means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in, or as a basis for, one's own work offered for academic consideration or credit or for public presentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to,

representing as one's own, without attribution, any other individual's words, phrasing, ideas, sequence of ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression.

4. "Fabrication" or "falsification" includes reporting experiments or measurements or statistical analyses never performed; manipulating or altering data or other manifestations of research to achieve a desired result; falsifying or misrepresenting background information, credentials or other academically relevant information; or selective reporting, including the deliberate suppression of conflicting or unwanted data. It does not include honest error or honest differences in interpretations or judgments of data and/or results.

Please refer to the University of Utah Student Handbook and University of Utah online catalog (<http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>) regarding policies and procedures for grading, attendance, course incompletes, and academic honesty.