Course Number: Comm-4311_001
Course Title: Documentary Film
Credit Hours: 3 Semester: Spring 2013
Time/Location: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. TBA

Instructor: Edward R. Tyndall
Office: 327 Bay Hall
Office Hours: Tues and Thurs 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. and Wed 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Email: edward.tyndall@tamucc.edu Phone: 361-825-2296


REQUIRED MATERIALS:
None

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:
Historical and Critical Study of the non-fiction film with attention to changing technologies, to varying uses and styles of documentary, and to contemporary and theoretical issues.

PRE/COREQUISITES:
None

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
- Recognize and identify key films and filmmakers in the development of documentary.
- Describe the techniques and principals that define various documentary approaches.
- Explain the connections between major styles and movements in documentary and their technological and social contexts.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TURNED IN ON THE ASSIGNED DATE:
No late assignments will be accepted. Assignments turned in after the due date will receive a zero. Incomplete assignments will be graded as is. No exceptions other than for family tragedy or medical emergencies (w/documentation). No incompletes will be given for this course.

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE:
Students are expected to know and abide by the TAMU-CC Academic Honor Code.
ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Strict attendance is required. There are no “excused” absences other than medical emergencies for which a physician’s care is required and that can be documented in writing or validated by the University Health Center. Such documentation or validation must be at the student’s initiative. All documentation must be submitted within one week (seven days) after you return to class.

After the second (2\textsuperscript{nd}) absence (excluding documented, medical emergencies as just noted), the course grade will be reduced by one-third of a letter grade (3.33 points on a 100-point scale) for each absence. After the fifth (5th) unexcused absence, the student will be given a failing grade in the course. Tardiness or early departure from the class will be considered an absence unless the instructor has been informed and has approved, in writing, of mitigating circumstances.

DROPPING A CLASS:
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

CLASSROOM/PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR:
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

ACADEMIC ADVISING:
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair.
The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

GRADE APPEAL PROCESS:
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

GRADING:
25% Essay
25% Test
25% Screening Journals/ Group Discussion
25% Group Presentation

GRADING SCALE:
100 – 90 = A
89.99 – 80 = B
79.99 – 70 = C
69.99 – 60 = D
59.99 – 0 = F

TOPICAL OUTLINE:

January 24th --- Class Introduction, Get Textbook

January 29th --- Lecture: How Did Documentary Filmmaking Get Started?
Reading Due --- Chapter 5 and 9

January 31st --- Screening: The Lumiere Brothers First Films / Nanook of the North

February 5th --- Group Discussion

February 7th --- Lecture: How Can We Define Documentary Film?
Due --- Screening Journal: The Lumiere Brothers First Films / Nanook of the North
Reading Due --- Chapter 1
February 12th --- Lecture: How Can We Differentiate Among Documentaries?
Reading Due --- Chapter 6

February 14th --- Screening: Koyaanisqatsi (Poetic Mode)

February 19th --- Group Discussion

February 21st --- Lecture: How Can We Describe the Modes of Documentaries
Due --- Screening Journal: Koyaanisqatsi
Reading Due --- Chapter 7

February 26th --- Screening: Grizzly Man (Expository Mode)

February 28th --- Group Discussion

March 5th --- Turn in Essay
Due --- Screening Journal: Grizzly Man
Essay

March 7th --- Lecture: Why Are Ethical Issues Central to Documentaries?
Reading Due --- Chapter 2

March 12th --- No Class Spring Break

March 14th --- No Class Spring Break

March 19th --- Screening: Jesus Camp (Observational Mode)

March 21st --- Small Group Discussion

March 26th --- Lecture: What Gives Documentary Films a Voice of Their Own?
Due --- Screening Journal: Jesus Camp
Reading Due --- Chapter 3

March 28th --- Screening The Fog of War (Participatory Mode)

April 2nd --- Group Discussion

April 4th --- Lecture: What Makes Documentaries Engaging and Persuasive?
Due --- Screening Journal: The Fog of War
Reading Due --- Chapter 4

April 9th --- Screening: Man With a Movie Camera / Land Without Bread (Reflexive Mode)
April 11th --- Group Discussion

April 16th --- Lecture: *How Have Documentaries Addressed Social and Political Issues?*
Due --- Screening Journal: *Man With a Movie Camera / Land Without Bread*
Reading Due --- Chapter 8

April 18th --- Screening: *Waltz With Bashire* (Peformative Mode)

April 23rd --- Group Discussion

April 25th --- Test
Due --- Screening Journal: *Waltz With Bashire*

April 30th --- Prep Day Group Presentations

May 2nd --- Group Presentations (Groups 1,2,3,4)

May 7th --- Group Presentations (Groups 5,6,7)

Final Exam --- See university final exam schedule