Course Number: MEDA 3313.001  
Course Title: Intermediate Documentary Production  
Semester: Spring 2020  
Credit Hours: 3  
Time: Monday 9-11:50am  
Classroom: BH 235  

Instructor: Prof. Scott Thurman  
Office: BH 222B  
Email: scott.thurman@tamucc.edu  
Office Hours: TBD  
Office Phone: 361-825-2586

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
To learn intermediate level theory and practical techniques in the creation of documentary media content with a focus on conceptualization, production, and distribution of a short documentary. We will discuss the text (in the form of written material and documentaries), as well as each project in progress throughout the planning and production process.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:  
- Practice approaches to planning and directing documentary film content through preproduction and production of a short documentary film.  
- Illustrate mastery of documentary postproduction workflows by editing a short documentary film.  
- Demonstrate an understanding of media distribution by successfully promoting and distributing a short documentary film.  
- Employ successful visual storytelling techniques in documentary film.

PREREQUISITES:  
MEDA 1380 Introduction to Media Production and MEDA 3315 Editing

REQUIRED TEXT:  

REQUIRED MATERIALS:  
- 500GB Portable Hard Drive (minimum)

ATTENDANCE POLICY:  
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 seven days after you return to class. After the second (2nd) unexcused absence (excluding documented, medical emergencies as just noted), the course grade will be reduced by 5 points (on a 100-point scale). After the third (3rd) 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.

ASSIGNMENTS:
Late work will be penalized 10 points each day (not class day) it is late. Late work will not be accepted more than 4 days past the original due date. All writing for this course must be composed using a standard, 12-point font size, and with standard 1” margins.

OUTSIDE CLASS:
If you would like to discuss any course readings, lectures, screenings, or assignments outside of class, you should feel free to contact me via email or by arranging to visit me during my office hours. If you need to schedule a time to meet outside of office hours, please let me know. Please remember to check your Islander email account regularly during the week and monitor the course Blackboard site for any course updates.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/PLAGIARISM:
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in an F.

DROPPING 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 your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process 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.

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

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.

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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

GRADE APPEALS:

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html).

GRADING / ASSIGNMENTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>100 - 90 = A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>89.99 – 80 = B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1 – Observational</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>79.99 – 70 = C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 2 – Interview</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>69.99 – 60 = D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 3 – Close Analysis *Paper &amp; Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>59.99 – 50 = F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 4 – Final Documentary</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Progress Work (Outlines, Storyboards, Shotlists, Raw Footage, &amp; Rough Cuts)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</table>
Week 1
(TBD)
In Class:
- Introductions, Syllabus, Equipment Inventory
- Introduction to Doc Modes
- Assignment 1 - Observational Mode
Outside-Class:
- Read p.1–24 *Contemporary Field Guide: Hewitt/Vazquez*

(TBD)
In Class:
- Lecture – Introduction to Documentary Modes ppt, Observational Mode ppt
- Camera & Sound Demo - Introduction
- Discuss 3 potential topics for your Documentary Project
- Discuss Documentary Project individually / Research & Lab time
Outside-Class:
- Begin production on Assignment 1
  o Research and planning for Documentary Production
- Read p.1–24 *Contemporary Field Guide: Hewitt/Vazquez*

Week 2
(TBD)
- Documentary Project – 3 Ideas
- Lecture – Observational mode, researching the topic, developing your ideas and acquiring access
Outside-Class:

(TBD)
In Class:
- Lecture – Characters and strong sequences
- Lab time
Outside Class:
- Confirm subject access and assign Documentary Project and Assignment 2 groups
- Edit Assignment 1

Week 3
(TBD)
In Class:
- Due: Documentary Project Subject Access, Treatment & Production Schedule
- Lectures – *Cinematic Continuity ppt, Great Observational Doc Filmmakers ppt*
- Show - Smokey (2007) Scott Thurman

(TBD)

In Class:
- Workshop - Documentary Project Subject Access, Treatment & Production Schedule
- Lab time

Outside Class:

Week 4
(TBD)

In Class:
- Due: Close Analysis Presentation – documentary film scene selection

Outside Class:
- Documentary Project production
- Read p.93-106 & p.121-135 Contemporary Field Guide: Hewitt/Vazquez

(TBD)

In Class:
- Assignment 2 – Expository Mode
- Lecture
  - Expository mode and preparing for collaboration
    - View Expository doc clips
  - Planning for effective interviews and lighting
- Discuss individual progress on Documentary Project
- Lab time

Outside Class:
- Assignment 1 – Observational due next class

Week 5
(TBD)

- Assignment 1 due at beginning of class
- Screen and discuss Assignment 1 – Observational Mode

Outside Class:
- Begin production on Assignment 2 / Final Doc Project production

(TBD)

In Class:
- Lecture – catchup ppt Lessons
- Lab time

Outside Class:
- Read p.76–92 Contemporary Field Guide: Hewitt/Vazquez & additional handouts
- Assignment 2 / Final Doc Project production

**Week 6**
(TBD)
- Due: Final Project - Revised Treatment, Shotlist, & Storyboard
- Lecture – Social, cultural, legal and ethical considerations for documentary production

(TBD)

In Class:
- Lecture – Preparing for the Interview, Lighting
- Discuss progress on Documentary Project
- Lab time

Outside Class:
- Read p.176-191 *Contemporary Field Guide*: Hewitt/Vazquez & additional handout
- Shoot/Edit Assignment 2 / Final Doc Production

**Week 7**
(TBD)
- Lecture – *Social, cultural, legal and ethical considerations*
- Workshop Final Doc - Revised Treatment, Shotlist, & Storyboard

(TBD)

In Class:
- Lecture – Poetic, Reflexive, and Participatory modes of documentary
- View and discuss example short documentaries in various modes

Outside Class:
- Read p.192–208 *Contemporary Field Guide*: Hewitt/Vazquez & additional handout
- Shoot/Edit Assignment 2 / Final Doc Production

**Week 8**
(TBD)
- Due: Assignment 2 at beginning of class
- Screen and discuss Assignment 2 - Interview

(TBD)

In Class:
- Lecture – Social, cultural, legal and ethical considerations
- Lab time

Outside Class:
- Documentary Project production

**Week 9**
(TBD)
- **Due:** Documentary Project Raw Footage
- Screen and discuss Documentary Project raw footage

**(TBD)**

In Class:
- Discuss progress on Documentary Project
- Lesson: Dramatic Structure

Outside Class:
- Read p.192-207 *Contemporary Field Guide: Hewitt/Vazquez*
- Documentary Project production

**Week 10**

**(TBD)**

- Screen and discuss Documentary Project raw footage individually
- Lab time

**(TBD)**

In Class:
- **Due:** Documentary Project Additional Raw Footage
- Lab time

Outside Class:
- Read p.168-175 *Contemporary Field Guide: Hewitt/Vazquez*
- Documentary Project production

**Week 11**

**(TBD)**

- Lecture – Finding structure and editing short documentaries
- Discuss constructing a string-out cut for 11/14
- Lab time

**(TBD)**

In Class:
- Discuss progress on Documentary Projects
- Lab time

Outside Class:
- Read p.216-227 *Contemporary Field Guide: Hewitt/Vazquez*
- Documentary Project production

**Week 12**

**(TBD)**

- Discuss constructing a string-out cut for next class

**(TBD)**

In Class:
- **Documentary Project String-Out due**
- Lecture – Using Music in Documentaries
- Screen and discuss Documentary Project string-outs
- Lab time

Outside Class:
- Read p.53-74 *Contemporary Field Guide: Hewitt/Vazquez*
- Documentary Project production

**Week 13**
*(TBD)*
- Documentary Project Rough Cut due
- Screen and discuss project 3 rough cuts

*(TBD)*

In Class:
- Lecture – Fundraising, Festivals, and Distribution
- Lab time

Outside Class:
- Documentary Project production

**Week 14**
*(TBD)*
- Documentary Fine Cut due
- Screen and discuss fine cuts
- Discuss final cut tech specs

*(TBD)*

In Class:
- Lecture – Fundraising, Festivals, and Distribution
- Lab time

**CLASS FINAL (TBD)**
- Documentary Final Cut due
- Watch & Critique Final Documentary Projects