

COURSE CONTENT

Course Code	DF5001 (DF3002)
Course Title	DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING
Pre-requisites	NIL
No of AUs	3
Contact Hours	39 hours

Course Aims

This is an introductory-level course combines the theory and practice of documentary filmmaking. You will learn about the history of documentary as a distinct aspect of film practice, and the various forms and types of documentary with key examples of films and filmmakers. You will then apply this knowledge in the ideation and production of a documentary project, which will allow you to practice and develop essential practical and conceptual skills. This learning will form the foundation for further, more advanced studies and projects in the field of documentary.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Describe the history of documentary as a medium, using key examples of films and filmmakers.
2. Identify and describe ethical precepts, as well as aesthetic and intellectual approaches to the documentary form.
3. Apply your knowledge of documentary filmmaking, in order to make your own documentary.
4. Present and develop concepts and ideas for documentary material.
5. Collaborate with documentary team members and effectively participate in class discussions and critiques.

Course Content

Consisting of a series of lectures, film viewings and workshops, Documentary Filmmaking explores the different genres and practices of the cinematic non-fiction film form. The course covers a brief history and theory of the documentary as political propaganda, investigative essay, personal journal, and cinema verite observation, through the study of documentary auteurs. You will develop an understanding of the ethical precepts, as well as an appreciation of the aesthetics and intellectual rigour of the documentary form.

Through practice, you will be exposed to the fundamentals of documentary filmmaking. The course seeks to develop your ability to identify, conceptualise and research a topic, negotiate access to characters or events, manage a production through efficient budgeting and scheduling, and create a short non-fiction cinematic narrative with coherent artistic vision and intellectual purpose.

Assessment will take the form of:

Documentary Film project

Working in groups of 2, teams will write, shoot, direct and edit a video documentary. You may shoot no more than 60 minutes of video per group and the finished films should be 4-6 minutes long, complete with titles and credits. Includes oral pitches. The films are to be submitted as self-contained MOV files.

Continuous Assessment

Continuous assessment components include both written and studio-based exercises.