

# FILM A265: DOCUMENTARY PRODUCTION

Item	Value
Curriculum Committee Approval Date	12/06/2023
Top Code	061220 - Film Production
Units	3 Total Units
Hours	90 Total Hours (Lecture Hours 36; Lab Hours 54)
Total Outside of Class Hours	0
Course Credit Status	Credit: Degree Applicable (D)
Material Fee	No
Basic Skills	Not Basic Skills (N)
Repeatable	No
Grading Policy	Standard Letter (S)

## Course Description

An advanced production class focused on the creation of field production and documentary storytelling. Topics include on-location video and field production, lighting, camera, sound and editing. Students will function as producers, directors, crew and editors. Projects will include equipment tests, a mini-documentary and a short documentary intended for use in portfolio. PREREQUISITE: FILM A110. Transfer Credit: CSU.

## Course Level Student Learning Outcome(s)

1. Demonstrate proficiency in studio, field and on-location camera lighting techniques.
2. Participate in the production of short documentaries.
3. Identify and utilize key components of the production and post production process

## Course Objectives

- 1. Discuss the differences and technical approaches to field production vs. studio production.
- 2. Demonstrate the ability to use special audio techniques to capture sound under challenging conditions.
- 3. Demonstrate the ability to light under different location conditions, both indoors and outdoors.
- 4. Write a detailed script rundown including TV interview questions.
- 5. Direct a standard on-location TV interview.
- 6. Complete a location survey report.
- 7. Demonstrate editing ability for either a documentary, informational or news story.
- 8. Discuss the role of industrial videos in the business sector.
- 9. Identify different styles of documentaries.
- 10. Differentiate the unique style of shooting and selling news stories.
- 11. Function as a production crew member in camera, sound, and lighting capacities.
- 12. Identify film/TV industry jobs and what is expected of graduating students.

## Lecture Content

Production Techniques: Field / On-Location Studio Advanced camera operations: Understanding and adjusting manual settings High Resolution cameras Location sound recording techniques Sibilance Wind noise Background noise Boom microphones Wired and Wireless microphones Location lighting techniques/challenges Location directing techniques Script development unique to documentaries, informational and news Writing questions for on-camera interviews Working with on-camera talent: Subjects Performers Narrators Spokespersons Elements of a location survey: Location drawings Power needs and sources Load in/out availability Special equipment need Parking and restroom facilities Food service availability or alternatives Editing techniques for documentary The production crew roles and responsibilities: Above – The – Line Below – The – Line On-location gathering/continuity Story and shooting techniques unique to dramatic production Cinematic technique Lighting technique Story and recording techniques unique to documentary Capturing action Coverage

## Lab Content

Apply Production Techniques: Field / On-Location Studio Utilize advanced camcorder operations: Execute advanced camera operations. High Resolution cameras. Apply location sound recording techniques Demonstrate location lighting techniques. Develop scripts, documentaries and informational projects. Distribution planning for film festivals or other outlets.

## Method(s) of Instruction

- Lecture (02)
- DE Live Online Lecture (02S)
- DE Online Lecture (02X)
- Lab (04)
- DE Live Online Lab (04S)
- DE Online Lab (04X)

## Instructional Techniques

Lecture/Discussions Equipment demonstrations Screenings of sample projects Viewing of instructional videos Critique of student projects

## Reading Assignments

Trade journals/publications (6 hours) and selected handouts – (10 hours)

## Writing Assignments

Project treatments, (16 hours) script development, (24 hours)

## Out-of-class Assignments

Project treatments and development (16 hours) and prep research for trade journal reports (4 hours) Project participation in pre-production, production and post-production (42 hours)

## Demonstration of Critical Thinking

Camera test Video terminology quiz Informational/news video Writing assignments Production crew assignments Written test Final video project Participation in class/lab

## Required Writing, Problem Solving, Skills Demonstration

This class features writing assignments in a variety of styles and formats. The student will demonstrate proficiency in the use of video production equipment, location sound, lighting and digital post-production editing in order to complete assignments. Students will demonstrate critical thinking and problem solving skills through

production development, on-location production techniques, and by working through production and post-production problems.

## **Eligible Disciplines**

Broadcasting technology (film making/video, media production, radio/TV): Any bachelors degree and two years of professional experience, or any associate degree and six years of professional experience.

## **Textbooks Resources**

1. Required BERNARD, S., C.,. DOCUMENTARY STORYTELLING, 5th ed. Routledge, 2022 Legacy Textbook Transfer Data: ISBN: 1032267291 2. Required Anthony Q. Artis. THE SHUT UP AND SHOOT DOCUMENTARY GUIDE, 2ND ed. TAYLOR FRANCIS, 2015

## **Other Resources**

1. Handouts will be provided by the instructor.