



Fairfield Ludlowe High School - Fairfield Warde High School

Documentary Production

Insert Teacher Name

Insert Room Number

Insert Full
Year/Semester

Insert Period

Insert Email Address

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Documentary Production is a one-semester course designed to introduce students to the process of documentary filmmaking. Students will analyze techniques used to produce documentaries and discuss the role of documentary film in contemporary society. They will learn to develop ideas for possible exploration, interview subjects pertinent to their films, capture professional-quality video and audio, and edit short documentary films over the semester. Students should take this course if they are interested in the media arts, storytelling, broadcast journalism, filmmaking, or editing.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- explore how the components of a documentary film come together to tell a story with a message aimed at raising awareness or influencing behavior.
 - discuss the rights and responsibilities of each stakeholder in the documentary filmmaking process.
 - analyze documentary films for bias, message, representation, and ethical issues.
 - analyze a variety of documentary modes for characteristics, form, technique, benefits, drawbacks and impact.
 - utilize research tools to conduct background research about their topic of choice.
 - employ technology and information tools to conduct research, effectively communicate with potential interview subjects and develop a production plan. create a preliminary list of necessary b-roll footage to capture.
 - utilize video and audio equipment to capture professional video and audio and professional editing software to import all captured media, produce and export a documentary film for sharing / distribution.
 - work collaboratively towards a common goal.
-

UNITS OF STUDY

Unit 1: A Brief History of Documentary Filmmaking and its Role in Society

Unit 2: Representing Reality and Truth: Ethical Considerations, Rights and Responsibilities in Documentary Storytelling

Unit 3: Documentary Modes: Expository, Observational, Participatory, Poetic & Reflexive

Unit 4: Pre-Production: Planning, Researching, and Preparing to Tell the Story

Unit 5: Production: Interviewing and Capturing B-roll Footage

Unit 6: Post-Production: Editing and Distribution, Screening, Critiquing & Reflection

COURSE POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS

GRADING

Cumulative/ In- Progress Grading

10% of the grade will be based on formative assessments, homework completion, or behavior

(See FPS BOE [Policy 6154.1AR.](#))

90% will be based on assessments

End of Course Grade

80% of the overall course grade will reflect the student's mastery of course content and skills during the school year through the Cumulative/In-Progress Grade.

10% of the end-of-the-Year course grade will be based on the Mid-Year Assessment

10% of the end-of-the-Year course grade will be based on the Final Assessment.

In addition, please see [Policy 6146.1AR](#) for additional information on grade reporting and late work.

REASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

Eligibility of assessments	Students will decide which assessments they will revisit. Only summative assessments are eligible.
Process	Students will speak to or email their teacher (no form required) within 2 class periods after receiving feedback on the original assessment. Students have one week to revise their work after requesting a reassessment.

Frequency	Students will have the opportunity to reassess on two summatives per year but not more than one per term (quarter).
Assessment Format	Students may make revisions to their project timelines and resubmit a new version of their project based on teacher / student feedback.
Gradebook impact:	Original and reassessment scores will be averaged in the gradebook.

MATERIALS

Prosumer quality video cameras, tripods, lighting kits, audio equipment, professional editing software, access to a subscription-based support materials database, a streaming film licensing and distribution database, and a royalty-free sound effects and music library.

Textbook: *The Bare Bones Camera Course for Film and Video*, 3rd Edition

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

Creating and Constructing: The student transforms existing ideas and knowledge into original ideas, products and processes.

Collaborating Strategically: The student takes into account prior knowledge, beliefs and experiences of self and others; roles and relationships within the group; and the group's purpose, roles and norms.

EXTRA HELP

Students should seek out extra help as needed. Teachers will be available upon request.