

FTVM271 : Documentary Filmmaking

General Information

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Course Code (CB01) :	FTVM271
Course Title (CB02) :	Documentary Filmmaking
Department:	FTVM
Proposal Start:	Summer 2025
TOP Code (CB03) :	(0604.20) Television (including combined TV/film/video)*
CIP Code:	(09.0701) Radio and Television.
SAM Code (CB09) :	Clearly Occupational
Distance Education Approved:	No
Will this course be taught asynchronously?:	No
Course Control Number (CB00) :	CCC000642174
Curriculum Committee Approval Date:	12/11/2024
Board of Trustees Approval Date:	12/19/2023
Last Cyclical Review Date:	10/25/2023
Course Description and Course Note:	FTVM 271 is a documentary filmmaking production course in which students work on a project from concept to distribution. Students practice fundamental skills including documentary producing, sound recording, lighting, cinematography and editing in the context of historical movements, contemporary issues, and diverse perspectives.
Justification:	Content Change
Academic Career:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Credit
Mode of Delivery:	No value
Author:	No value
Course Family:	No value

Academic Senate Discipline

Primary Discipline:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mass Communication
Alternate Discipline:	No value
Alternate Discipline:	No value

Course Development

Basic Skill Status (CB08)

Course is not a basic skills course.

Allow Students to Gain Credit by Exam/Challenge

Course Special Class Status (CB13)

Course is not a special class.

Pre-Collegiate Level (CB21)

Not applicable.

Grading Basis

- Grade with Pass / No-Pass Option

Course Support Course Status (CB26)

Course is not a support course

General Education and C-ID

General Education Status (CB25)

Not Applicable

Transferability

Transferable to both UC and CSU

Transferability Status

Approved

Units and Hours

Summary

Minimum Credit Units (CB07)	3
Maximum Credit Units (CB06)	3
Total Course In-Class (Contact) Hours	108
Total Course Out-of-Class Hours	54
Total Student Learning Hours	162

Credit / Non-Credit Options

Course Type (CB04)

Credit - Degree Applicable

Noncredit Course Category (CB22)

Credit Course.

Noncredit Special Characteristics

No Value

Course Classification Code (CB11)

Credit Course.

Variable Credit Course

Funding Agency Category (CB23)

Not Applicable.

Cooperative Work Experience Education Status (CB10)

Weekly Student Hours

	In Class	Out of Class
Lecture Hours	1.5	3
Laboratory Hours	4.5	0
Studio Hours	0	0

Course Student Hours

Course Duration (Weeks)	18
Hours per unit divisor	54
Course In-Class (Contact) Hours	
Lecture	27

Laboratory	81
Studio	0
Total	108

Course Out-of-Class Hours

Lecture	54
Laboratory	0
Studio	0
Total	54

Time Commitment Notes for Students

No value

Units and Hours - Weekly Specialty Hours

Activity Name	Type	In Class	Out of Class
No Value	No Value	No Value	No Value

Prerequisites, Corequisites, Recommended Corequisites, and Recommended Preparation

Prerequisite

FTVM132 - Introduction to Film Production

Objectives

- Demonstrate correct application of basic pre-production, production principle cinematography, and post-production skills and techniques.
- Demonstrate proficiency in different roles on a film set.
- Demonstrate a hands-on ability to perform appropriate critical thinking, problem solving, and effective communication needed for successful teamwork in a functional motion picture production team.
- Demonstrate knowledge of both the technical and aesthetic aspects of video field production.
- Define a culture of safe practices by appraising, explaining, and applying industry-standard safety protocols.
- Operate as ethical, highly disciplined professions in the film industry, testing challenges and solving problems both during pre-production and on set.
- Correctly operate field and video equipment.

OR

Prerequisite

FTVM130 - Cinematic Storytelling Pathways

Objectives

- Demonstrate basic knowledge and comprehension of film theory and grammar.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply basic cinematic techniques and tools effectively such as camera techniques, composition, editing, sound design in the expression of cinematic storytelling.
- Produce and film assigned exercises that demonstrate basic understanding of the production process, including preparation of directorial materials shot lists and floor plans, camera work, lighting and sound.
- Demonstrate basic knowledge and comprehension of the various departments, key crew members and their roles and responsibilities in the motion picture production team.

- Independently shoot and edit a short silent cinematic continuity scene.

OR

Prerequisite

FTVM135 - Introduction to Audio Production

Objectives

- Describe basic acoustic principles and terminology, i.e., frequency, amplitude, vibration, waveform.
- Operate basic audio equipment such as microphones, mixers, digital audio workstations, recorders, amplifiers and speaker systems.
- Explain digital audio principles, file types, and compression methods.
- Perform multi-track audio recording and editing within the Pro Tools application.
- Write audio production scripts and cue sheets.
- Create and record live sound effects.
- Analyze production values of professionally produced programs.

OR

Prerequisite

FTVM139 - Introduction to Editing

Objectives

- Import motion footage from camera cards or camcorder into an editing project.
- Create computer-generated video effects, titles and graphics.
- Transcode a variety of digital video compression formats.
- Open and set up a functioning digital video editing project.
- Perform non-linear video editing.
- Export a finished editing project to a professional digital motion picture format.

OR

Prerequisite

FTVM137 - Introduction to Cinematography

Objectives

- Identify, assess and put into practice the fundamental technical aspects of cinematography, including camera mechanics and operation, three point lighting and use of prime lenses, demonstrating individual and collective proficiency.
- Examine and value the aesthetics and subtleties of visual storytelling and relate them to the technical requirements of operating digital video equipment.
- Set up creative partnerships and illustrate the collaborative dynamic between the cinematographer and the whole crew of a film production.
- Successfully work in a production team on cinematic scenes holding the roles of DP, Camera Operator and Gaffer while moving a story forward through executing a variety of compositional and lighting styles, genres and cinematic styles that may include: shooting day for night, portable on location lighting, single light source, mixing color temperatures, using natural light only, and utilizing moving camera and/or subject.
- Define a culture of safe practices by appraising, explaining, and applying industry standard safety protocols for camera operation and lighting.

OR

Prerequisite

FTVM46 - Field Studies in Film, Television and Media Arts Production

Objectives

- Organize and prepare for production in the field.
- Identify previous work originating from the target area.
- Identify issues related to production in the target area.
- Execute a completed film, TV or Media Arts project within the time frame of the target area visit.

Entry Standards

Entry Standards	Description
No value	No value

Course Limitations

Cross Listed or Equivalent Course	Description
No value	No value

Specifications

Methods of Instruction	
Methods of Instruction	Collaborative Learning
Methods of Instruction	Demonstrations
Methods of Instruction	Field Activities (Trips)
Methods of Instruction	Guest Speakers
Methods of Instruction	Lecture
Methods of Instruction	Laboratory
Methods of Instruction	Multimedia
Methods of Instruction	Presentations

Out of Class Assignments

- Research and location scouting
- Shooting projects
- Editing projects
- Prepare finished projects for distribution

Methods of Evaluation

Rationale

Exam/Quiz/Test

Regular tests to show mastery of concepts

Activity (answering journal prompt, group activity)

Perform mock in class mock interviews to master documentary interviewing techniques, lighting techniques and camera work

Writing Assignment

Analyze the documentary film and interpret it from a directorial point of view and the various documentary stylistic choices

Presentation (group or individual)

Presentations of proposed projects, subjects and pre-visualization materials.

Project/Portfolio

Pre-produce and Shoot a short documentary film

Report

Create response paper or presentation of an assigned documentary treatment of a produced documentary film

Evaluation

Self and Peer Reviews/critique of performance during pre-production, production and post-production

Textbook Rationale

Classic Text

Textbooks

Author	Title	Publisher	Date	ISBN
Michael Rabiger and Courtney Hermann	Directing the Documentary	Routledge	May 14, 2020	9780367235574

Other Instructional Materials (i.e. OER, handouts)

No Value

Learning Outcomes

Course Objectives

Plan pre-production strategies for documentary production.

Develop and prepare materials for a documentary subject film project.

Explain document production practices from pre-production through post.

Plan, shoot and edit documentary projects.

SLOs

Create a proposal and shooting plan for a short documentary.

Expected Outcome Performance: 70.0

Apply documentary filmmaking techniques in the production and post-production of a short documentary.

Expected Outcome Performance: 70.0

Identify different types of documentary styles and techniques.

Expected Outcome Performance: 70.0

Additional SLO Information

Does this proposal include revisions that might improve student attainment of course learning outcomes?

No

Is this proposal submitted in response to learning outcomes assessment data?

No

If yes was selected in either of the above questions for learning outcomes, explain and attach evidence of discussions about learning outcomes.

No Value

SLO Evidence

No Value

Course Content

Lecture Content

Introduction to Documentary (3 hours)

- Historical movements
 - Soviet documentary
 - European avant-garde
 - British documentary film movement
 - Cinéma vérité and Direct cinema
 - Feminist and LGBTQ documentary
- Documentary modes and techniques
 - Expository mode
 - Observational mode
 - Participatory mode
 - Performative mode
 - Poetic mode
 - Reflexive mode
 - Ethical issues
 - Informed consent
 - Editing

- Vulnerable subjects

Production Process Basics (8 hours)

- Crew responsibilities and relationships
 - Crew positions
 - Resumes and Interviews
- Develop Proposal and Pitch
 - Audience
 - Structure and Style
 - Budget Plan
 - Marketing/Distribution Plan
- Research
 - Similar topic documentaries
 - Access to subjects
 - Access to locations
 - Archival images or video
- Develop Proposal and Pitch
 - Audience
 - Structure and Style
 - Budget Plan
 - Marketing/Distribution Plan
- Legalities and Safety
 - Insurance
 - Permissions
 - Releases and licensing
 - Set protocol
- Stylistic Approaches and Structure
 - Interview techniques
 - Action Footage
 - Sound Recording
 - Lighting Interior and Exterior
 - Cinematography

Preproduction (7 hours)

- Show selection and Crew Development
 - Pitch and selection
 - Interviews and crew up
- Develop a shooting Plan
 - Interviews
 - Action Footage
 - Graphics and Stills
- Technical planning
 - Scouting locations
 - Lighting schemes and techniques
 - Recording schemes
 - Camera department needs
 - File organization and backup
 - Workflow Test

Production (4 hours)

- Gather Interviews
- Gather Action Footage
- Log and Back up footage
- Secure Archival Footage, Stills
- Secure Music

Post-production (4 hours)

- Paper Editing
- Editing
- Archival or licensed footage
- Titles and graphics

- Picture lock
- Sound mix
- Color Correction
- Mastering

Distribution (1 hours)

- Promotional materials
- Film Festivals
- Broadcast

Total hours: 27

Laboratory/Studio Content

Production Process Basics (6 hours)

- Crew responsibilities and relationships
 - Crew positions
 - Resumes and Interviews
- Develop Proposal and Pitch
 - Audience
 - Structure and Style
 - Budget Plan
 - Marketing/Distribution Plan
- Research
 - Similar topic documentaries
 - Access to subjects
 - Access to locations
 - Archival images or video
- Develop Proposal and Pitch
 - Audience
 - Structure and Style
 - Budget Plan
 - Marketing/Distribution Plan
- Legalities and Safety
 - Insurance
 - Permissions
 - Releases and licensing
 - Set protocol
- Stylistic Approaches and Structure
 - Interview techniques
 - Action Footage
 - Sound Recording
 - Lighting Interior and Exterior
 - Cinematography

Preproduction (26 hours)

- Show selection and Crew Development
 - Pitch and selection
 - Interviews and crew up
- Develop a shooting Plan
 - Interviews
 - Action Footage
 - Graphics and Stills
- Technical planning
 - Scouting locations
 - Lighting schemes and techniques

- Recording schemes
- Camera department needs
- File organization and backup
- Workflow Test

Production (12 hours)

- Gather Interviews
- Gather Action Footage
- Log and Back up footage
- Secure Archival Footage, Stills
- Secure Music

Post-production (33 hours)

- Paper Editing
- Editing
- Archival or licensed footage
- Titles and graphics
- Picture lock
- Sound mix
- Color Correction
- Mastering

Distribution (4 hours)

- Promotional materials
- Film Festivals
- Broadcast

Total hours: 81

Additional Information

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Justification (if repeatable was chosen above)

No Value

Is it possible this course will have a material fee?

No Value

I have contacted my library liaison (<https://campusguides.glendale.edu/faculty/liasons>):

No Value

What term(s) will this course be offered?

No Value

Will any additional resources be needed for this course? (Click all that apply)

No Value

If additional resources are needed, add a brief description and cost in the box provided.

No Value

Resources

Did you contact your departmental library liaison?

Yes

If yes, who is your departmental library liaison?

Adina Lerner (Technology & Aviation, Visual & Performing Arts)

Did you contact the DEIA liaison?

Yes

Were there any DEIA changes made to this outline?

No

If yes, in what areas were these changes made:

No Value

Will any additional resources be needed for this course? (Click all that apply)

- No

If additional resources are needed, add a brief description and cost in the box provided.

No Value