



Australia's
Global
University



ARTS3289

Documentary Film and History

Term Three // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Ruth Balint	r.balint@unsw.edu.au	Monday 3-4.	Morven Brown 345	9385 8278

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

Phone: +61 2 9385 1681

Fax: +61 2 9385 8705

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *History*

Do documentaries tell the truth? Can we rely on them as sources of history? In this course you will watch, analyse and debate how documentary films have both represented and reinvented the past. From the earliest radical Bolshevik pioneers to the home movies of the forties, to the current use of the phone camera to record emergency and war, and even to the wildlife documentary, this course explores how documentary films interpret history, make history and in some cases, change history.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse important turning points, idea and developments in the history of documentary film
2. Analyse how key documentary films have represented, interpreted and made history
3. Evaluate and engage with scholarly arguments
4. Communicate ideas and engage in discussions

Teaching Strategies

In my own work I am interested in the possibilities of the non-print form for historical research and am particularly fascinated by the audiovisual archives and the documentary film format. This course is structured around a love of documentary and each week we examine a different theme related to the history documentary, and its development as a form of public history over the past century. We view many different documentary films from around the globe, and learn to think about their historical contexts in time and place, their argument and reach. I see this course as a way of engaging you in discussion, debate and argument about the extraordinarily rich field of documentary film and its relationship to history.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Major Essay	50%	11/11/2019 05:00 PM	1,2,3
Tutorial responses	25%	08/10/2019 05:00 PM	1,2,3
Test	25%	Not Applicable	1,2,3

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Major Essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 2000 words

Details: Research essay. 2000 words. Answering a set question source and analyse one or more documentary films and historical sources to make an informed argument. The feedback is in the form of a written response on moodle, analysing argument and analysis, effective location and use of relevant sources, effective use of documentary case studies, referencing and presentation and written style.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 2: Tutorial responses

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 200 words each

Details: Five tutorial responses of 200 words each. This will be a written response to a specific question relating to the essential readings for that week's tutorial. Students will be able to choose two weekly topics from the first three weeks, and three from the topics for the rest of the term. The first two tutorial responses will be due in week 3, so that students have early feedback, and the final three will be assessed at the end of term. Written feedback will be provided in moodle, assessing ability to accurately analyse tutorial readings and respond to the question, as well as written style, referencing and presentation.

Additional details:

The first due date provided is for the first two tutorial responses, due on 8 October. The second set of three responses are due at the end of term on 25 November.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 3: Test

Start date: 22/11/2019 10:00 AM

Length: Two hours

Details: The test is a written test, and will assess students' understanding of lecture and tutorial material for the entire course. It will take place in the final week of term. There will be no feedback for this assessment.

Additional details:

The test is an in-class, closed book test.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 16 September - 20 September	Lecture	Documentary Film, Images and Historical Meaning.
	Tutorial	Introduction to the course.
Week 2: 23 September - 27 September	Lecture	The Soviets and the Brits. Propaganda or Education?
	Tutorial	Putting the nation on film
Week 3: 30 September - 4 October	Lecture	The Era of the Witness and the Politics of Testimony
	Tutorial	Fim as Witness
Week 4: 7 October - 11 October	Lecture	Visual Anthropology and Ethnography on Film
	Tutorial	Indigenous history telling
Week 5: 14 October - 18 October	Lecture	The Audiovisual Archive and Home Movies
	Tutorial	Home Movies and Found Footage
Week 6: 21 October - 25 October	Lecture	Anniversary Histories
	Tutorial	Apollo 50
Week 7: 28 October - 1 November	Lecture	Emergency Cinema
	Tutorial	Activist Documentary or a Cinema of Accountability
Week 8: 4 November - 8 November	Lecture	READING WEEK. No lectures or tutorials this week. Please use this week to complete your essays.
Week 9: 11 November - 15 November	Lecture	The Natural History Film
	Tutorial	Cinema in the Wild.
Week 10: 18 November - 22 November	Lecture	In-Class Test.
	Tutorial	TBA.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Please note these will be provided on moodle.

Recommended Resources

These will be provided on moodle.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student evaluations are taken seriously in this course, and students are expected to complete the MyExperience feedback at the end of the course. Students have previously loved this course. Group presentations around a single documentary film received less positive feedback as an assessment task, and this has now been removed.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

Image Credit

A still from the film Miss Universe 1929: Lisl Goldarbeiter a Queen in Wien - Film by Peter Forgacs.
Taken from his
website, http://www.forgacspeter.hu/prev_version/eng/main/films/missuniverse/missuniverse.html

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