ARTS3066

Documentary and Non Fiction Cinemas

Term Three // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Amin Palangi	a.palangi@unsw.edu.au	See Moodle	Robert Webster 311O	

School Contact Information

Room 312, level 3 Robert Webster Building

Phone: (02) 9385 4856

Email: sam@unsw.edu.au

Website: https://sam.arts.unsw.edu.au

The School of the Arts and Media would like to Respectfully Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campuses) and the Ngunnawal people (Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra) of the lands where each campus of UNSW is located.

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

In this course you will develop an understanding of the major movements, production trends and scholarly debates in documentary and non fiction filmmaking. You will learn how these forms of production address crucial ethical and philosophical questions concerning the relationship between filmmakers and audiences. You will also develop skills in formulating a scenario for a documentary or non fiction creative project.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Recognize, both conceptually and practically, key creative processes in documentary and non fiction cinemas.
2. Apply a variety of critical concepts and terms relating to the production, distribution and interpretation of documentary and non fiction cinemas.
3. Demonstrate research skills in gathering, classifying and communicating information about documentary and non fiction cinemas.
4. Apply writing skills to the analysis and communication of creative practices.
5. Position different forms of documentary and non fiction cinemas within a larger history of filmic production.

Teaching Strategies

The teaching strategy employed in this course replaces the traditional lecture-screening-tutorial model with a seminar structure in which student input plays a far more central role. This is in line with the general aim of level 3 film studies subjects to promote a higher degree of student-led research and debate on discipline-specific concepts. Immediately after the screening, the class will reconvene in a seminar. Electrical devices such as laptops, iPads and mobile phones must be switched off during screenings.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Short Essay	20%	30/09/2019 11:00 PM	2,3,5
Documentary and non-fiction film scenario	30%	13/10/2020 11:00 PM	1,3,4
Major Essay	50%	29/11/2019 11:00 PM	2,3,4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Short Essay

Start date:

Details: 1000 words.Feedback: Written feedback and a numerical grade provided.

Assessment 2: Documentary and non-fiction film scenario

Start date:

Details: 5-10 minute in-class presentation plus a written presentation of 2,000 words.Feedback: Verbal feedback on the presentation plus written feedback and a numerical grade

Additional details:

Find additional information on Moodle.

Assessment 3: Major Essay

Start date:

Details: 2000 words.Feedback: Written feedback and a numerical grade provided.

Additional details:

Find additional information on Moodle.

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	Seminar	**Introduction** Screening: *The Beaches of Agnès,* Agnès Varda, 2008
Week 2: 23 September - 27 September	Seminar	**Almost No Boundaries (I): Jean Rouch** Screening: *La Pyramide Humaine* (*The Human Pyramid*)*,* Jean Rouch, 1961
Week 3: 30 September - 4 October	Seminar	**The Limits of Representation: Alain Resnais** Screening: *Night and Fog*, Alain Resnais, 1956
Week 4: 7 October - 11 October	Seminar	**The Limits of Knowing: Jean-Luc Godard** Screening: *2 or 3 Things I Know About Her*, Jean-Luc Godard, 1967
Week 5: 14 October - 18 October	Seminar	**The Impermanence of Things: Chris Marker** Screening: *Sunless*, Chris Marker, 1983
Week 6: 21 October - 25 October	Seminar	**The Slaughter-Bench of History: Joshua Oppenheimer** Sceening: *The Act of Killing*, Joshua Oppenheimer, 2012
Week 7: 28 October - 1 November	Seminar	**Celluloid Mirrors, Video Diaries: Patricio Guzmán** Screening: *Nostalgia for the Light,* Patricio Guzmán, 2010
Week 8: 4 November - 8 November	Reading	READING / PRODUCTION WEEK
Week 9: 11 November - 15 November	Seminar	**Almost No Boundaries (II): Abbas Kiarostami** Screening: *Close-Up*, Abbas Kiarostami, 1990
Week 10: 18 November - 22 November	Seminar	**Finale: The Animal That Therefore I Am** Werner Herzog: *Grizzly Man* (2005)

Resources

Prescribed Resources

NB. All essential readings for ARTS3066 will be available on the course Moodle site

Recommended Resources

Students may find the following texts useful.

Keith Beattie, Documentary Screens: Non-Fiction Film and Television (New York: Palgrave, 2004).
Bill Nichols, Representing Reality: Issues and Concepts in Documentary (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994).

Laura Rascaroli, The Personal Camera: Subjective Cinema and the Essay Film (London: Wallflower Press, 2009).
Michael Renov, The Subject of Documentary (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press: 1994). Brian Winston ed., The Documentary Film Book, (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013).

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback on the course is gathered through the UNSW myExperience process. Information gathered from this process is used to make improvements to the course. Students are also encouraged to provide informal feedback directly to the convenor.

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/

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