



CAPILANO UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE		
TERM: FALL 2023	COURSE NO: DOCS 315	
INSTRUCTOR:	COURSE TITLE: Documentary Field Studies I	
OFFICE: LOCAL: E-MAIL: @capilanou.ca	SECTION NO(S):	CREDITS: 3.0
OFFICE HOURS:		
COURSE WEBSITE:		

Capilano University acknowledges with respect the Lilwat7úl (Lil'wat), xʷmə̓ł̓ ʔkʷəyəm (Musqueam), shísháhlh (Sechelt), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) people on whose territories our campuses are located.

COURSE FORMAT

Three hours of course instruction for 15 weeks, combining a mixture of lecture and lab hours. 4th hour instruction will consist of one-on-one project communication and mentoring.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

45 credits of 100-level or higher coursework

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course explores documentary cinema as it applies to the field of environmental studies. Students will learn the historical and theoretical background to documentary film, and how to utilize documentary principles and techniques for the creation and distribution of academically-informed non-fiction materials. Students will develop their own project ideas and materials to create a live-action short documentary as they establish a foundation in documentary cinema arts and sciences.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND/OR RESOURCES

Reading and course materials will be provided by instructor/s.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Integrate documentary production skills with scholarly field research;
- Demonstrate aesthetic principles and composition in non-fiction storytelling;
- Identify and visually interpret a point-of-view or established perspective;
- Combine qualitative research with interviews in various subjects;
- Edit a short non-fiction film with sequence-building and visual assets;
- Prioritize platforms and delivery requirements for non-theatrical distribution.

COURSE CONTENT

CLASS 1: THE CINEMA ENVIRONMENT

- Documentary Storytelling & Society
- Location Through an Indigenous Perspective
- Actuality: The Foundations and Principles of Non-Fiction Film
- Documentary and Truth
- Documentary Genres
- Ethics: Informed Consent & Visual Storytelling
- Student Skills Assessment
- **Assignment 1: 12 Photo Story Essay**

CLASS 2: LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION

- Equipment 101
- Basic Camera Operation: Settings
- Documentary Filming Techniques
- **Assignment 1 Due: Class presentations: Photo Essay**

CLASS 3: CAPTURING REALITY

- Composition: An Introduction
- Lenses
- Free Cinema
- Dynamics of Motion
- Working with Sound, Part I
- **Assignment 2: Camera & Sound**

CLASS 4: THEORY & PRACTICE

- Story, Essay and Project Development
- Ethical Representation: Equity, diversity and Inclusion in Unceded Territory
- Structure
- Artistic Identity
- Point of View: Voice & Perspective
- Research & Cultural Practice: Environmental Stewardship – An Indigenous Perspective
- **Assignment 3: 3-minute Story Synopsis**

CLASS 5: LIGHTING & SOUND WORKSHOP

- Working with Sound, Part II
- Lighting
- **Assignment 2 Due: Camera & Sound**

CLASS 6: STORY WORKSHOP

- Project Development Workshop: From Concept to Story
- Story and Pre-Visualization
- **Assignment 3: Due: 3-minute Story Synopsis**
- **Assignment 5: Create a 3-minute Non-Fiction Story or Essay**

CLASS 7: INTERVIEWING WORKSHOP

- Research and Preparation
- Working with Indigenous Protocols
- Qualitative Research & Crafting the Questions
- Ethics: Filming in Sensitive Communities
- Composition: Interview Framing & Lighting
- Story & Legacy: Working with Elders and Knowledge Keepers

CLASS 8: CAMERA EYE

- Visual Storytelling
- Aesthetics & Composition
- Shooting Sequences
- *Camera-Style*
- Visual Assets: B Roll
- **Assignment 4: World in Motion**

CLASS 9: POST PRODUCTION WORKSHOP I

- Introduction to Editing Software

CLASS 10: POST PRODUCTION WORKSHOP II

- Sound and Picture Editing
- Documentary Style: Truth and Form

CLASS 11: POST PRODUCTION WORKSHOP III

- Paper Editing and Story Structure
- Building Sequences
- B-roll, Music and Narration
- **Assignment 4: World in Motion Due**

CLASS 12: POST PRODUCTION WORKSHOP IV

- Rough Cut, Fine Cut, Delivery Protocols
- Non-Fiction Film & Distribution

CLASS 13: POST SOUND & DELIVERY WORKSHOP

- Sound Editing and Design
- Packaging and Polishing
- Delivery and Technical Specifications

CLASS 14: DISTRIBUTION & EXHIBITION

- Next Steps: Distributing Non-Fiction Content
- Theatrical and Non-Theatrical Communities
- Building a Media Ecosystem

CLASS 15: THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

- Exhibition: Class Presentations
- The Release: Protocols of Cultural Knowledge Sovereignty
- The Public Sphere: Respectful Community Dialogue & Discourse
- Shared Knowledge: The Community Screening & Guided Conversation
- **Assignment 5 Due: 3-minute non-fiction story or essay**

EVALUATION PROFILE

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS	
Assignment 1: 12 Photo Story Essay	10%
Assignment 2: Camera & Sound Exercise	15%
Assignment 3: 3-minute Film Story Synopsis	20%
Assignment 4: World in Motion	25%
Assignment 5: 3-minute Project: non-fiction story or essay	30%
Total	100%

GRADING PROFILE

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D = 50-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	F = 0-49
A- = 80-84	B- = 70-72	C- = 60-62	

Incomplete Grades

Grades of Incomplete "I" are assigned only in exceptional circumstances when a student requests extra time to complete their coursework. Such agreements are made only at the request of the student, who is responsible to determine from the instructor the outstanding requirements of the course.

Late Assignments

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the due date listed. If you anticipate handing in an assignment late, please consult with your instructor beforehand.

Missed Exams/Quizzes/Labs etc.

Make-up exams, quizzes and/or tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises. Some missed labs or other activities may not be able to be accommodated. Please consult with your instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and associated activities.

English Usage

Students are expected to proofread all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Instructors may deduct marks for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

Electronic Devices

Students may use electronic devices during class for note-taking only.

On-line Communication

Outside of the classroom, instructors will (if necessary) communicate with students using either their official Capilano University email or eLearn; please check both regularly. Official communication between Capilano University and students is delivered to students' Capilano University email addresses only.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONAL DETAILS**Tools for Success**

Many services are available to support student success for Capilano University students. A central navigation point for all services can be found at: <https://www.capilanou.ca/student-life/>

Capilano University Security: download the [CapU Mobile Safety App](#)

Policy Statement (S2009-06)

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Academic Integrity, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Academic Integrity (S2017-05)

Any instance of academic dishonesty or breach of the standards of academic integrity is serious and students will be held accountable for their actions, whether acting alone or in a group. See policy and procedures S2017-05 Academic Integrity for more information: <https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/>

Violations of academic integrity, including dishonesty in assignments, examinations, or other academic performances, are prohibited and will be handled in accordance with the Student Academic Integrity Procedures.

Academic dishonesty is any act that breaches one or more of the principles of academic integrity. Acts of academic dishonesty may include but are not limited to the following types:

Cheating: Using or providing unauthorized aids, assistance or materials while preparing or completing assessments, or when completing practical work (in clinical, practicum, or lab settings), including but not limited to the following:

- Copying or attempting to copy the work of another during an assessment;
- Communicating work to another student during an examination;
- Using unauthorized aids, notes, or electronic devices or means during an examination;
- Unauthorized possession of an assessment or answer key; and/or,
- Submitting of a substantially similar assessment by two or more students, except in the case where such submission is specifically authorized by the instructor.

Fraud: Creation or use of falsified documents.

Misuse or misrepresentation of sources: Presenting source material in such a way as to distort its original purpose or implication(s); misattributing words, ideas, etc. to someone other than the original source; misrepresenting or manipulating research findings or data; and/or suppressing aspects of findings or data in order to present conclusions in a light other than the research, taken as a whole, would support.

Plagiarism: Presenting or submitting, as one's own work, the research, words, ideas, artistic imagery, arguments, calculations, illustrations, or diagrams of another person or persons without explicit or accurate citation or credit.

Self-Plagiarism: Submitting one's own work for credit in more than one course without the permission of the instructors, or re-submitting work, in whole or in part, for which credit has already been granted without permission of the instructors.

Prohibited Conduct: The following are examples of other conduct specifically prohibited:

- Taking unauthorized possession of the work of another student (for example, intercepting and removing such work from a photocopier or printer, or collecting the graded work of another student from a stack of papers);
- Falsifying one's own and/or other students' attendance in a course;
- Impersonating or allowing the impersonation of an individual;
- Modifying a graded assessment then submitting it for re-grading; or,
- Assisting or attempting to assist another person to commit any breach of academic integrity.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

All Members of the University Community have the right to work, teach and study in an environment that is free from all forms of sexual violence and misconduct. Policy B401 defines sexual assault as follows:

Sexual assault is any form of sexual contact that occurs without ongoing and freely given consent, including the threat of sexual contact without consent. Sexual assault can be committed by a stranger, someone known to the survivor or an intimate partner.

Safety and security at the University are a priority and any form of sexual violence and misconduct will not be tolerated or condoned. The University expects all Students and Members of the University Community to abide by all laws and University policies, including B.401 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy and B.401.1 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Procedure (found on Policy page <https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/>)

Emergencies: Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency policies where appropriate and the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.