RT-504 CRITICAL DOCUMENTARY PRACTICE
Fall Semester 2015

Instructor: Professor Jan Thompson
janione@siu.edu,
Class Meeting Time: Wednesdays 3:00pm -5:50,
Office Hours: Tuesdays 5:00-7:00
Wednesdays 1:00-3:00pm 6:00-7:00 and by appointment.

Catalogue Description:
Documentary is both a product of existing social conditions and a form of
critical opposition to them. This course will emphasize independent video
production from invention of the documentary idea to post-production.
Emphasis on connections between critical theory and media production.
Students will embrace the conceptual and hands-on process of researching,
writing and producing independent documentary video, focusing on critical
arts practice.

Class Overview & Objectives:
Documentary films can question an event, profile a person, and uncover a
secret. They can expose truths and tell the truth about how lives are lived
throughout the world. They can influence and inspire and provoke. This
class will concentrate on sharpening the student’s skills in producing in the
documentary form by producing several short projects. In addition, the class
will be assigned readings and throughout the semester we will screen
documentaries.

Grades will be based on several group and individual exercises, tests, papers
and final project. In addition you will be required to assist WSIU on studio
lighting sit-ups throughout the semester. One requirement of this class is to
keep a journal of all set-ups that you create in class and for the exercises.
You will be required to turn this journal in during the semester and at the
end of the semester.

Absolute Requirement:
Hard drive
Week One: Over view of the course and course objectives. Lecture on the different styles of documentary forms. Lecture on the beginning process of selecting a topic and determining if it is suitable for a documentary film. Proposals Elements. First project assigned: Direct Cinema Style Documentary.

Week Two: Pitching your documentary idea to the class. Lecture on the fundamentals of good research, organization of materials including journals and production Bibles. The basics of a detailed Treatment based on pre-interviews.

Week Three: Class Work Day

Week Four: Treatments due for First Project. Review and critique of Treatments in class. Film Screening. Lecture: prepping for the production phase of a documentary. Interviewing subjects. Positive/negative imagery.

Week Five: Lecture: The Art of Editing and Sound Design.

Week Six: FIRST PROJECT DUE-IN CLASS CRITIQUE. Second Project assigned.

Week Seven: Lecture: Research methods for a historical documentary and how to start analyzing different genres. Film screening.

Week Eight: In Class Project Work

Week Nine: FINAL Project assigned and discussed. Film screening and discussion.

Week Ten: Second Project ---In Class Critique. The business aspect of production-understanding the releases, insurance and music cue sheets.

Week Eleven: Dramatic storyline and structure and working with actors. The art of re-enactments.

Week Twelve: Veterans Day-Holiday

Week Thirteen: Lecture: fund raising and festival entry requirements.

Week Fourteen: Thanksgiving Break

Week Fifteen: IN CLASS WORK

Week Sixteen: FINAL PROJECT DUE 5:30pm 12/16 EXAM TIME
Building Emergency Response Protocols for Syllabus:
University’s Emergency Procedure Clause:

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT’s website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Public Safety’s website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in the Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

Students With a Disability:

Instructors and students in the class will work together as a team to assist students with a disability safely out of the building. Students with a disability will stay with the instructor and communicate with the instructor what is the safest way to assist them.

Tornado:

During the spring semester we have a Storm Drill.

Pick up your belongings and your instructor will lead you to a safe area of the basement. No one will be allowed to stay upstairs. Stay away from windows. The drill should not last more than 10 minutes. You must stay with your instructor so he/she can take roll. Students need to be quiet in the basement as the BERT members are listening to emergency instructions on handheld radios and cannot hear well in the basement.

Fire:

During the fall semester we have a Fire Drill.

Pick up your belongings and your instructor will lead you to either the North or South parking lot depending on what part of the building your class is in. You must stay with your instructor so he/she can take roll. As soon as the building is all clear, you will be allowed to return to class.

These drills are to train instructors and the Building Emergency Response Team to get everyone to a safe place during an emergency.
Bomb Threat:

If someone calls in a bomb threat, class will be suspended and students will be asked to pick up their belongings, evacuate the building and leave the premises. Do not leave anything that is yours behind. We will not allow anyone back into the building until the police and bomb squad give us an all clear. **DO NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONES.** Some bombs are triggered by a cell phone signal.

Shooter in the Building:

If it is safe to leave, move to a safe area far from the building away from where the shooter is located. If anyone has any information about the shooter, please contact the police after they have gone someplace safe.

If it is not safe to leave, go into a room, lock the door and turn out the lights. Everyone should spread out and not huddle together as a group. Don't stand in front of the door or in line of fire with the door. Students' chair and desks should be piled in front of the glass and door as a barricade and the teacher's desk, podium and anything movable can be pushed against the door. This is intended to slow down any attempts to enter the classroom. If it looks like the shooter is persistent and able to enter, make a lot of noise and have the students use everything in their backpacks to throw at the shooter to distract him.

Silence all cell phones after one person in the room calls the police and informs them of their location and how many people are in the room. **Be quiet and wait for the police to arrive.** The police are looking for one or more shooters, and they have no way of knowing if the shooter is in the room people are hiding in. For this reason, when the police enter the room, no one should have anything in his/her hands and each person **MUST** raise his/her hands above his/her head.

Earthquake:

In the event of an earthquake, you are advised to take cover quickly under heavy furniture or crouch near an interior wall or corner and cover your head to avoid falling debris. Outside the building are trees and power lines and debris from the building itself that you will need to stay away from. In the building, large open areas like auditoriums are the most dangerous. Do not try to escape on a stairway or elevator. Do not hide under a stairway. We do not recommend that you stand in a doorway because the door could shut from the vibrations and crush your fingers trapping you there.

Rave Mobile Safety Alert System:

We recommend that you sign up for the Rave Mobile Safety Alert System. It is a new system that replaces the WENS system to alert you through emergency text messages on your cell phone and emails for emergencies on campus, weather reports and emergency school closures. You have to sign up. If you were signed up for WENS it does not roll
You have to sign up for Rave Mobile Safety Alert System. Go to Saluki Net, go to my records tab, under SIUC Personal Records, click on View My SIUC Student Records, Under Main Menu click on Personal Information, click on View and Update Addresses and Phones, in the middle of the page click [Update Addresses and Phones], under phones click Primary: This will take you to Update Addresses and Phones – Update/Insert, under primary phone number for this address put in your cell phone and submit. For more information, visit dps.siu.edu, contact SalukiTech at 453-5155 or salukitech@siu.edu.

**CPR/Defibrillator and First Aid Class:**

If you would like to take a CPR/Defibrillator and/or First Aid class, contact LaVon Donley-Cornett, lavong@siu.edu or call 453-7473.

**Women's Self Defense Classes** are offered to female students faculty and staff by the Department of SIU Public Safety. For more information contact Officer Mary Stark marys@dps.siu.edu.