Course program and reading list

Semester 1 Year 2021

School: Sammy Ofer School of Communications B.A

Creating a Documentary

Lecturer:

Ms. Yifat Kedar ykedar@idc.ac.il

Course No.: 7646
Course Type: Workshop
Weekly Hours: 2
Credit: 2

Course Requirements:
Final Paper

Group Code: 211764601

Language:
English

Course Description

Course Subjects:

1. What is Documentary? Form & Style

Introduction of the course, its goals, and the process of practical documentary-making. Instructions for the 1st class assignment – Creating a selfie video - due 3rd week + preparations for the 2nd assignment - Pitching the story (due 5th week) Each student will submit a proposal for a documentary topic of their choice. Critical Needs: Characters and Strong Sequences

2. Camera operation and lighting - first steps. Practice with Cameras + tripods - Outdoor, indoors
3. Screening and class feedback – The I docs short films 1-3 min. + guidelines for the Pitch


5. Students pitch ideas to class. Class evaluates ideas and ranks projects, and semester group projects selected. Casting tips and guidelines – first characters are to be presented next week in class.

6. The characters – Screening the research videos showing your main protagonists + feedback.

How to create a production brief & guidelines, to be presented next week (7th class) a strong emphasis on developing the characters, conflicts and scenes.

7. Pre-production presentation - Each group will present their research and plans for characters and sequences. They should be able to discuss the feasibility of the plans and demonstrate preproduction planning including location surveys of difficulties

8. The art of video Interviews - tips, tricks, and techniques + class practice with cameras

9. The scene – How to approach filming a documentary scene? Do's and Don'ts, how to express the story, characters conflict and his/her main journey + The structure - from a general outline to a script. Be prepared to present next lesson a full script + a shooting brief/ list

10-11 personal meetings with the groups - Looking into the shot lists, additional content & scenes + assignment - filming.

12. Reviewing the first assembly/ rough cut, fixing the structure, rebuilding the characters, drama, and other essential scenes.

13. Premiere class screening - the final projects
We are consuming more and more documentaries. An authentic video that tells a story brings information, commentaries on the world, and a unique perspective on reality. The documentary genre is in the world of television, streaming, advertising, marketing, and social networking.

Documentary Video Workshop is designed to provide students with a framework for production of various documentary styles. The Personal, investigative, editorial, social videos, artistic, observational and more.

The instruction uses screenings, analysis, discussion, equipment and process orientation, and unsupervised field production/editing. We will work with digital video to develop media production skills. In this workshop, we will learn the process of practical documentary-making. Choosing subjects suitable for the magazine format and viewing relevant video examples. We will learn the basic video principles: What is a shot? Angles, camera movement, close up, medium and long shots how do they help the videographer to tell their story?

The research for a magazine feature: What is the difference between a short report and a magazine feature? We will practice different approaches: the journalistic/storytelling/artistic course of action, locating the characters and interview subjects, the journalistic ethics versus the reporter's perception—development of the interview technique. At the end of this workshop, students will have a professional documentary video for their portfolio.

Course Goals

- To introduce the students to types of documentary language as content creators, writers, reporters or as directors.
- To learn all the necessary steps in the creation of a documentary video project. The concept, the unique story, personal point of view and personal language, inspiring sources, research, directing, and editing.
- To learn and develop original thinking, observation skills, leadership, and an ethical approach towards their viewers.
- To obtain the professional skills in the genre required for working in the industry.

Grading

Assignments and Requirements:
1. Active participation in the classes and assignments of the workshop.

2. Work in production groups of 2-3 students

The submission of exercises on time, the deadline, is part of the core components.

3. Attendance in at least eight lessons per semester.

**Grade Composition:**

15% Active participation, Attendance

15% Teamwork and in class assignments

20 % 1st Assignment, a selfie Doc

50% 2nd Assignment a Final 5-10 min Documentary

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**Additional Notes**

**Content:**

All content produced as part of the workshops will follow ethical guidelines and will not contain inappropriate or offensive remarks.

The school maintains the exclusive right to publish and present selected student works in school events and in the media.

**Production protocols:**

The school allows usage of the technological infrastructure in accordance with the production protocols as published on the school's website.
no readings