



Credit Hours: 3

Catalog Course Description:

An advanced project class focusing on the documentary form as an opportunity for an individualized expression. Each student will be responsible for the creation of a documentary designed to communicate his or her point of view on a topical and/or controversial subject or issue associated with the Study Abroad location of interest.

The cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow are our location for students to produce and direct their class project. The Edinburgh Film Festival is one of the premiere destinations for every student who is interested in working in the film industry. While attending the film festival, students will have the opportunity to watch world premieres, listen to the directors, producers, and actors talk about the filmmaking craft. Along with the film festival, students will choose one of the many historical museums, castles, cathedrals, or another prominent location, event, or person as the subject for their production. Before students begin the trip, research will be conducted, interviews will be setup, and special permissions will be obtained so the student may spend their time on the production.

Entry Level Standards:

Students must be able to read and write at the college level. Students shall have completed prior coursework in basic, intermediate and advanced production. Students shall have demonstrated ability to perform all technical aspects of production and be able to conceptualize, develop and produce entire class project within deadline parameters, with supervision.

Prerequisites: VPT 2330 and consent of instructor

Textbook/Online and Other Requirements:

Directing The Documentary by Michael Rabiger (fourth edition). Examples of documentaries. It is strongly advised that student utilize textbooks required from previous VPT classes and equipment operations manuals for reference.

I. Week / Unit / Topic Basis:

Week 1	Discuss syllabus and outcome expected of this course. Define and discuss research and project requirements. Establish production teams if needed. Establish project milestones and dates. Completion of concept, treatment, and production schedule reviewed. Journals assigned and discussed. Production for students who have based their project on the Edinburgh Film Festival or other locations in Edinburgh
Week 2	Production for students who have based their project on locations in Edinburgh and in Glasgow. Post-production starts.

Week 3

Production and post-production continues for students.

All projects completed by end of return week. Project review and critique.

II. Course Objectives*:

- A. Employ project management skills. I, IV, V.
- B. Demonstrate working knowledge of principles of audience analysis, design of program objectives, and program evaluations. I, III, IV, V
- C. Demonstrate ability to apply accepted aesthetic conventions to completed work. I, III, V
- D. Demonstrate high degree of technical mastery. IV,V
- E. Demonstrate willingness and ability to meet deadline requirements. II, V
- F. Design and create a compelling video documentary. I,IV,V

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference goals of the VPT program.

III. Instructional Processes*:

Students will:

1. Employ project management skills. *Active Learning Strategy, Transitional Strategy.*
2. Develop and refine their video production skills. *Active Learning Strategy, Transitional Strategy, Technological Literacy Outcome.*
3. Learn the importance (or re-enforce) the importance of deadlines. *Transitional Strategy, Communication Outcome.*
4. Understand the importance of pre-production planning. *Transitional Strategy, Communication Outcome.*
5. Use the best production skills for production development. *Technological Literacy Outcome, Active Learning Strategy.*
6. Internalize the work ethic by regularly attending class, being punctual, being dependable, cooperating with the teacher and other classmates contributing to class discussion and projects, and acting in a professional manner. *Active Learning Strategy, Transitional Strategy, Communication Outcome*

*Strategies and outcomes listed after instructional processes reference goals for strengthening general education knowledge and skills, connecting coursework to experiences beyond the classroom, and encouraging students to take active and responsible roles in the educational process

IV. Expectations for Student Performance*:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Develop and implement detailed production plan. A, D
2. Demonstrate effective use of time and resources within deadline parameters. E
3. Organize and direct a production team. B, D

4. Define audience in terms of demographics and needs to be addressed in terms of specific communication objectives. B
5. Design and implement evaluation tool. B, D
6. Observe and employ techniques that lead to the establishment of high production values in the finished video project. B, D
7. Exercise awareness and willingness to meet project deadlines and milestones. E
8. Utilize a non-linear editing system. D
9. Observe and employ techniques which lead to the establishment of high production values in the completed video project, i.e., well manages and motivated audio, lighting, visual composition, edit pacing, etc. B,C

*Letters after performance expectations reference the course objectives listed above.

V. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures: 20% of grade

There can be some short quizzes on important terms and concepts about documentaries.

There will also be work sheets that will be required to be done

B. Laboratory Expectations: 40% of grade

Lab and production work should be accomplished during scheduled class periods. Scheduling lab and production work at other times should be in addition to, not in lieu of, regularly scheduled class times.

C. Field Work: 40% of grade

Several criteria have been established for successful completion of this class. The correlation between the message intended for the chosen audience and the actual perceived message will be considered. Attention to technical detail will merit significant consideration. Organizational skills and project management skills will be assessed. Finally, achievement of production milestones will provide a foundation for the successful completion of the course.

D. Other Evaluation Methods: N/A

E. Grading Scale:

90 – 100	= A
80 – 89	= B
70 - 79	= C
60- 69	= D
below 60	= F

VI. Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

Attendance is of utmost importance in study abroad courses. There are no unexcused absences permitted. Multiple unexcused absences are grounds for removal from the program. Being in class on time is also very important. Frequent tardiness will be considered an absence and appropriate action will be taken. Absences due to illness must be reported immediately to the program director.

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices: Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments. In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed as a result of academic misconduct, the instructor has the authority to assign either (1) an F or zero for the assignment or (2) an F for the course.

VII. Instructional Hours:

This course will consist of a minimum of 37.5 full hours of formal instruction.