



Credit Hours: 3

Catalog Course Description:

This advanced project course focuses 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.

Concept development and project treatment will be completed prior to leaving for Paris. Students will be encouraged to create a documentary film about their travel abroad experience, pinpointing unique cultural experience(s). The concept and treatment will be turned into the instructor (via email) prior to leaving.

Traveling and producing a documentary in Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam will place students within European production meccas. France is the birthplace of documentary film and Paris continues to celebrate fantastic documentary film production today. From the Lumiere Brothers early films to Thomas Balme's latest documentary "Babies" France has produced some of the world's best documentaries.

Brussels is home to the European Parliament, the equivalent of Washington DC. This cross roads of European political debate exposes students to global issues that the EU manages. The Millenium International Documentary Film Festival delivers films with current activism, demanding social changes. This along with beautiful architecture and the culture of Belgium ensure students the filming experience of a lifetime.

The trip ends in Amsterdam where we will network with Zoey D'Amato, executive producer of Godmother Films. This company works closely with Greenpeace to change the world in positive way using media. Also in Amsterdam is Lemonade.nl an avant garde 3D animation post production house.

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. The VPT 2330 pre requisite can be waived with consent of the instructor.

Textbook(s) and Other Course Materials:

Directing the Documentary. Michael Rabiger, Focal Press ISBN 978-0-240-80608 Ebook available <http://store.vitalsource.com>

In example of documentaries and 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 expected outcomes of this course. Define and discuss project requirements and establish project milestones and dates. Review production/interview schedules. Shooting in Paris. Review footage. Turn in journals for week one. Five blog entries. Chapter 2, 3 & 4. Quiz 1.

- Week 2 Review production/interview schedules, milestones and dates. Shooting in Brussels. Log, transfer, organize footage. Start preliminary editing. Review footage. Turn in journals for week two. Five blog entries. Chapters 9, 10 & 11. Quiz 2.
- Week 3 Review production/interview schedules, milestones and dates. Shooting in Amsterdam. Log, transfer and organize footage. Continue editing. Review footage. Turn in journals for week two. Five blog entries. Chapters 23, 26, 29, 33. Quiz 3. Location visit: Godmother Films & Lemonade.nl

II. Course Goals*:

The course will:

- 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 Video Production Technology program. (Career Program Goals and General Education Goals are listed http://www.pstcc.edu/departments/curriculum_and_instruction/syllabi/)

III. Expected Student Learning Outcomes*:

Students will 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. Identify and employ techniques that lead to the establishment of high values in the finished video project. B, D
7. Demonstrate awareness and willingness to meet project deadlines and milestones. E
8. Operate a non-linear editing system. D
9. Identify 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

* Capital letters after Expected Student Learning Outcomes reference the course goals listed above.

IV. Evaluation:

- A. Testing Procedures: 20%
- B. Laboratory Expectations: 30% 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: 50% 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 would 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

V. 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.