

Course Unit	Documentary	Field of study	Journalism and Reporting
Bachelor in	Communication and Journalism	School	School of Public Management, Communication and Tourism
Academic Year	2023/2024	Year of study	3
Type	Semestral	Semester	1
Level	1-3	ECTS credits	6.0
Code	9662-657-3104-00-23		
Workload (hours)	162	Contact hours	T - , TP 60, PL - , TC - , S - , E - , OT - , O -

T - Lectures; TP - Lectures and problem-solving; PL - Problem-solving, project or laboratory; TC - Fieldwork; S - Seminar; E - Placement; OT - Tutorial; O - Other

Name(s) of lecturer(s) Pedro Coutinho Martins Colaco do Rosario

Learning outcomes and competences

At the end of the course unit the learner is expected to be able to:

1. Understand and analyze documentary film as a nonfiction narrative film that represents the world through particular points of view;
2. Understand and debate documentary film as a work of art and as a product of particular social and historical circumstances;
3. Identify and articulate documentary's language manifest through a film's perspective, commentary, style, narrative / narration, and methods of persuasion;
4. Distinguish between documentary and in-depth reportage;
5. Develop a coherent documentary project through its several stages;
6. Demonstrate familiarity with the technical aspects of documentary production and explore them in a project;
7. Employ critical thinking and argumentation skills in the analysis of documentary film's formal features, its reception and the ideas and goals of the documentary filmmaker expressed in it.

Prerequisites

Before the course unit the learner is expected to be able to:
Demonstrate basic knowledge of audiovisual language.

Course contents

Study of theories and praxis of Documentary since its origin, in order to understand what visual, audio, rhetorical and narrative codes can contribute to, or challenge, its non-fiction status, emphasizing a critical reflection on its representation of the Real. Contextualization of Documentary in its various socio-cultural periods. Understanding the different stages of development of a documentary project, as well as the legal and ethical responsibilities of the documentary filmmaker.

Course contents (extended version)

1. The origins of documentary cinema:
 - Representation of Reality. Imagined Reality. Self-representation.
 - Genres, formats, and new forms of representing Reality.
2. Establishing national documentary cinema(s);
3. War(s), news films and ethics in documentary;
4. Post WWII and the politics of the 1960s;
5. Observational cinema (direct cinema and cinéma vérité);
6. Documentary, institutions and the clinical gaze;
7. Meta-commentary in documentary: the illusions of Realism;
8. Mockumentary, rockumentary and other dramas;
9. The new ethnography;
10. Questioning documentary representation;
11. Television's formal issues;
12. Digital implications on documentary;
13. Developing a documentary:
 - Pre-production (from research to the documentary treatment);
 - Pitch;
 - Production;
 - Post-production;
 - The different roles of the director and the producer;
 - Work crew, organization and procedures.
14. Specific techniques:
 - Camera and lighting;
 - Sound;
 - Interviews.

Recommended reading

1. Barnouw, E. (1993). Documentary: a history of the non-fiction film, 2. ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 0195078985.
2. Cousins, M. & MacDonald, K. (2005). Imagining reality: the faber book of documentary cinema. Londres: Faber and Faber. ISBN: 0571225144.
3. Grant, B. K. ; Sloniowski, J. & Nichols, B. (2013). Documenting the documentary: close readings of documentary film and video. Detroit: Wayne State University Press. ISBN: 0814339719.
4. Nichols, B. (1991). Representing reality: issues and concepts in documentary. Indiana: Indiana UP. ISBN: 0253206812.
5. Rabiger, M. (2009). Directing the documentary, 5. ed. Burlington: Focal Press. ISBN: 0240810899

Teaching and learning methods

To achieve the curricular unit's objectives and complement the content presentation, documentary films and other specialized content will be screened and discussed in class. Readings, documents, platforms, and apps will be provided to support the understanding of concepts. Production of 3 individual exercises. Completion of a collaborative documentary project in practical application.

Assessment methods

1. Distributed evaluation - (Regular, Student Worker) (Final, Supplementary, Special)
 - Practical Work - 35% (Research; preparatory exercises for the crew's production tasks; analysis.)
 - Projects - 55% (Development of documentary film (from pre-production to public presentation). Peer review.)
 - Development Topics - 10% (Reflection on Documentary modes and records.)
2. Incoming and outgoing students - (Regular) (Final, Supplementary, Special)
 - Practical Work - 35% (Research; preparatory exercises for the crew's production tasks; analysis.)

Assessment methods

- Projects - 55% (Development of documentary film (from pre-production to public presentation). Peer review.)
- Development Topics - 10% (Reflection on Documentary modes and records.)

Language of instruction

1. Portuguese
2. English

Electronic validation

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18-10-2023	18-10-2023	13-11-2023	06-12-2023