

MJS-2410: TELEVISION: VIDEOJOURNALISM AND DOCUMENTARY PRODUCTION

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: MJS-2410 : Television: Videojournalism and Documentary Production

Board of Trustees:

June 2017

Academic Term:

Fall 2019

Subject Code

MJS - Media and Journalism Studies

Course Number:

2410

Title:

Television: Videojournalism and Documentary Production

Catalog Description:

Introduction to basic concepts of video production for non-fiction producers. Emphasis on operation of video/audio equipment and visual story telling process. Basic producing workflow for TV news-magazine segments and documentary films: research, planning, writing, recording, editing, marketing, and distribution. Teamwork and group production emphasized.

Credit Hour(s):

3

Lecture Hour(s):

2

Lab Hour(s):

2

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

MJS-1010 Principles of Media and Communications, or departmental approval: comparable knowledge or skills.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Utilize professional level writing skills for documentary television content.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Explain the purposes and objectives of network, public, and independent television.
2. Plan and write for television news-magazine shows, video segments, and documentary programs.

Course Outcome(s):

Conduct research, finding, and legal optioning of real-life stories for documentary programs.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Information Literacy: Acquire, evaluate, and use information from credible sources in order to meet information needs for a specific research purpose.

Objective(s):

1. Explain the purposes and objectives of network, public, and independent television.
2. Plan and write for television news-magazine shows, video segments, and documentary programs.

Course Outcome(s):

Utilize producing skills for documentary films and TV news-magazine programs.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Oral Communication: Demonstrate effective verbal and nonverbal communication for an intended audience that is clear, organized, and delivered effectively following the standard conventions of that language.

Objective(s):

1. Explain the purposes and objectives of network, public, and independent television.
2. Produce and direct short-length documentary content.
3. Discuss television news-magazine production, documentary film producing, and content distribution.

Course Outcome(s):

Use digital audio/video tools for field productions.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Set up and operate portable digital video and audio equipment.
2. Set up and operate audio systems: microphone placement, recording, and basics of sound design.
3. Maintain production equipment: portable camera, lighting kit, audio kit, and computer system.
4. Set up and operate single-camera video production.

Course Outcome(s):

Demonstrate professional handling of studio-based and field interviews for TV and film.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Information Literacy: Acquire, evaluate, and use information from credible sources in order to meet information needs for a specific research purpose.

Oral Communication: Demonstrate effective verbal and nonverbal communication for an intended audience that is clear, organized, and delivered effectively following the standard conventions of that language.

Objective(s):

1. Set up lighting for studio interviews and field production.
2. Maintain production equipment: portable camera, lighting kit, audio kit, and computer system.

Course Outcome(s):

Utilize intermediate videography and non-linear editing skills for documentary content.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Edit video content using industry standard non-linear editing program (level 1 proficiency).
 2. Operate a portable digital video camera.
 3. Set up and operate portable digital video and audio equipment.
 4. Set up lighting for studio interviews and field production.
 5. Maintain production equipment: portable camera, lighting kit, audio kit, and computer system.
 6. Set up and operate single-camera video production.
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Course Outcome(s):

Create a short documentary film (short subject documentary).

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Produce and direct short-length documentary content.
2. Discuss television news-magazine production, documentary film producing, and content distribution.

Course Outcome(s):

Demonstrate creative development (early stages) of a feature-length documentary film.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Information Literacy: Acquire, evaluate, and use information from credible sources in order to meet information needs for a specific research purpose.

Objective(s):

1. Discuss television news-magazine production, documentary film producing, and content distribution.

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Writing (scripts for visual content)
2. Examinations (quiz tests covering technical aspects of this course)
3. Practical production projects (short film/video content created by students)

Course Content Outline:

1. Set up and operation of single-camera systems
 - a) tripods and hand-held support systems
 - b) camera bodies, lens, and adapters
 - c) cinematographic/videographic workflow
2. Inter-connecting audio systems
 - a) microphone placement
 - b) recording
 - c) basics of sound design
3. Lighting for single-camera productions
 - a) 3-point lighting design
 - b) ambient lighting use
4. Use of editing application
 - a) *Adobe Premiere CC*, level 1 training
 - b) basics of non-linear digital editing workflow
5. Production of graphics and titles
 - a) *Adobe Photoshop CC* basics for editors
 - b) importing and integrating graphics files
6. Writing and scripting
 - a) outline for TV content
 - b) 2-column scripting
7. The role of director and crew
 - a) director's preparation and duties
 - b) crew positions and proper set protocol
8. Maintenance of Equipment
 - a) camera kits
 - b) lighting kits

- c) audio equipment
 - d) digital storage and memory cards
 - e) editing system
9. Conduct research, finding and legal optioning of real-life stories for documentary programs
- a) techniques of connecting to social and news media leads (to develop a story)
 - b) proper methods of checking and evaluating sources
 - c) knowing legal rights and accessing basic contracts (to acquire the story)

Resources

Curran Bernard, S. (2015) *Documentary Storytelling: Creative Nonfiction on Screen*, NY: Focal Press.

Rabiger, M. (2014) *Directing the Documentary*, NY: Focal Press.

Billinge, S. *The Practical Guide to Documentary Editing: Techniques for TV and Film*. Focal Press, 2017.

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