FI326-15 Issues in Documentary

25/26

Department
SCAPVC – Film and Television Studies
Level
Undergraduate Level 3
Module leader
Ritika Kaushik
Credit value
15
Assessment
100% coursework
Study location
University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

n/a

Module web page

Module aims

This module offers students the chance to explore, in depth, the history and aesthetics of film and television documentary and other ways of representing reality in audio-visual media.

The specific structure of the module will change from year to year, but will always introduce students to key intellectual and theoretical questions about the status of documentary. Consideration will also be paid to documentary history. Students will explore a range of different stylistic approaches to the form, analyze a range of audio-visual works from different historical periods and read a range of critical works central to the conceptualization of documentary.

The module will be taught via a weekly lecture and seminar, informed by primary and secondary screenings and weekly readings, plus one essay tutorial per student.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Indicative screenings:
GPO films (e.g. Night Mail (Harry Watt & Basil Wright, 1936), Granton Trawler (John Grierson, 1934), A Colour Box (Len Lye, 1934))
Jean Painlevé shorts (e.g. L'Hippocampe (1934) and Cristaux Liquides (1978))
Paris is Burning (Jennie Livingston, 1990)
Primary (Robert Drew, 1960)
Chronique d'un été (Jean Rouch, 1961)
Atomic Café (Jayne Loader, Kevin Rafferty, Pierce Rafferty, 1982)
The Fog of War (Errol Morris, 2003)
Dont Look Back (D. A. Pennebaker, 1967)
Geri (Molly Dineen, 1999)
Stop Making Sense (Jonathan Demme, 1984)
Searching For Sugar Man (Malik Bendjelloul, 2012)
Amy (Asif Kapadia, 2015)

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- understand the issues and approaches central to the study of documentary film, television and video, and be able to evaluate critically and mobilise key theoretical concepts, perspectives and methodologies in relation to this genre.
- offer critical, evaluative textual analyses of the film, television and video texts attended to on the module.
- understand historical and contemporary trends in documentary film, television and video and have a firm grasp of the history of the documentary form.
- undertake independent research into documentary and the representation of fact.
- express their understanding of documentary clearly in written form.

Indicative reading list

Reading lists can be found in Talis

Specific reading list for the module

Subject specific skills

This module develops skills of audio-visual literacy, through close textual and/or contextual analysis in relation to the moving image and sound. It may also develops understandings of historical, theoretical and conceptual frameworks relevant to screen arts and cultures.

Transferable skills

- critical and analytical thinking in relation
- independent research skills
- team work
- clarity and effectiveness of communication, oral and written

- accurate, concise and persuasive writing
- audio-visual literacy
- inter-cultural awareness

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (25%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (25%)
Tutorials	(0%)
Other activity	18 hours (50%)
Total	36 hours

Private study description

Reading, viewing, seminar preparation, presentation preparation, essay preparation and writing

Other activity description

Screenings

Costs

Category	Description	Funded by	Cost to student
Other	n/a	Department	£0.00

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A3

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
5000 word essay	100%		Yes (extension)

This essay is designed to enable you to demonstrate the skills that you have developed in textual analysis and the critical reading of documentary texts during the module. It is an exercise in combining research, reading and textual analysis and any essay should attend to all three aspects in a meaningful and balanced way.

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Detailed written feedback will be given on the essay, along with individual tutorials before submission and after grading where requested.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of UFIA-W620 Undergraduate Film Studies
- Year 4 of UFIA-W621 Undergraduate Film Studies (with Year Abroad)
- Year 4 of UFIA-QW25 Undergraduate Film and Literature
- Year 4 of UFIA-QW26 Undergraduate Film and Literature (with Study Abroad)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 3 of UFIA-QW25 Undergraduate Film and Literature