

PFR502: Documentary Film Production (CFS)

Status	Approved
Module Name	Documentary Film Production (CFS)
Module Code	PFR502
Credit Value	30
Level	5
Pre-requisites	
Named Module Leader	Marshall, Kingsley

Module Aim

The module aims to give you an introduction into the practices of documentary filmmaking and the associated theories that contextualise the work that is produced.

Summary Module Description

Documentary and factual based films and programmes are among the most valuable cultural forms of our time. Persuasive, compelling, questioning; documentary filmmakers tackle challenging subjects and provide a voice to those who may not have the opportunity or capacity to represent themselves. Films of this nature, with a focus on impact, have the ability to influence decision-makers, tackle social injustice or simply tell stories of the times in which we live.

Working in production crews you will research, write and produce a short documentary film of 5 - 10 minutes. All of the work produced is united by the fact that the subject matter derives from research and exploration into one or more aspects of the 'real' and 'actuality' and peoples' lived experience.

The module will cover the following key elements:

- Generating research materials to inform factual film-making
- Identifying potential narrative structures
- Identifying point of view and argument
- Impartiality, ethics and the responsibility of representation
- Documentary pre-production, production and post-production skills.

Module-Specific Employability Skills

The module will offer you an opportunity to practice the following skills that can be used in professional settings in film, television and creative industries, as well as in academia and beyond:

Industry & Business Knowledge: You will develop an ability to recognise and apply relevant terminologies, technologies and processes to your creative practice or evaluation of others' work.

Critical Thinking & Analysis: You will develop an ability to look below the surface of film and television, make connections and reflect on different social and creative perspectives. Through this process, you will build a more profound understanding not only of film and television but also of values and attitudes in contemporary global societies that influence what you see on the screen.

Expanded Worldview: You will appreciate a range of diverse creative practices and modes of expression. You will also develop social and political sensitivity, especially regarding representation.

Ethical and Legal Responsibilities: You will progress your understanding of how to work professionally within industry-standard ethical and legal frameworks.

Health and Safety: You will enhance your awareness of health and safety guidelines and apply them in professional settings.

Problem Solving and Innovation: You will grow your capability to logically and critically evaluate the currently available film and television practices and evolve your creative innovation by applying conceptual models to practical challenges.

Imagination and Creativity: You will gain confidence to determine your potential contribution to the creative industries, finding the courage to use artistic solutions and produce unique and original work.

Collaboration and Team Working: You will develop a positive attitude when working with others in a respectful, organised and collaborative manner.

Personal Development: You will be advised on how to define your priorities, manage your time effectively, develop an understanding of personal strengths and weaknesses and find ways of responding to constructive criticism and feedback. Your ability to forge productive relationships with others and to understand the essential elements of how creativity is fostered in team environments will go on to support you and your ambitions in your academic career and beyond.

Learning Outcomes

LO #	Learning Outcome Name	Learning Outcome Description	Assessment Criteria Category
BAPFMASFU01 BA(Hons) Practical Filmmaking (2 year) - CFS v1.2			
1	Technical	Demonstrate ideas, creative elements, processes and techniques appropriate to a project	PROCESS
2	Collaboration	Demonstrate constructive relationships and work effectively in the conception and delivery of a team project	COLLABORATION
3	Communication	Demonstrate professional communication and presentation skills	None
4	Professionalism	Demonstrate self-management skills and set priorities for personal and professional progression	ORGANISATION
5	Research	Demonstrate the use of research, resources and methodologies that inform a project	RESEARCH
6	Analysis	Demonstrate the ability to analyse specialist information and practices	None
7	Innovation	Demonstrate problem solving techniques, independent enquiry, practice and experimentation in the realisation of a project	None
8	Industry	Demonstrate industry vocabulary and knowledge to support your engagement with the commercial marketplace	None
BAPFMISFU01 BA(Hons) Practical Filmmaking with Integrated Foundation Year (3 years) - CFS v1.2			
1	Technical	Demonstrate ideas, creative elements, processes and techniques appropriate to a project	PROCESS
2	Collaboration	Demonstrate constructive relationships and work effectively in the conception and delivery of a team project	COLLABORATION
3	Communication	Demonstrate professional communication and presentation skills	None

4	Professionalism	Demonstrate self-management skills and set priorities for personal and professional progression	ORGANISATION
5	Research	Demonstrate the use of research, resources and methodologies that inform a project	RESEARCH
6	Analysis	Demonstrate the ability to analyse specialist information and practices	None
7	Innovation	Demonstrate problem solving techniques, independent enquiry, practice and experimentation in the realisation of a project	None
8	Industry	Demonstrate industry vocabulary and knowledge to support your engagement with the commercial marketplace	None

Assessment Methods

Assessment Method	Description of Assessment Method	%	Learning Outcomes Assessed	Compulsory or Compensatable
JL	Individual Research Log	40	CLO: 4 , 5 , 4 , 5	Compulsory
PO	Group documentary film & performance in role	60	CLO: 1 , 2 , 4 , 1 , 2 , 4	Compulsory

The following codes for assessment methods apply

JL	Journal (JL)
PO	Portfolio

Modes of delivery

Module Target Learner Hours: 300	
Activity	Hours
Lecture	24
Seminar	15
Tutorial	6
Project supervision	6
Practical classes and workshops	12
Supervised time in studio/workshop	12
Fieldwork	75
Guided independent study	150

Indicative list of resources

Reading List

BERNARD S. C. 2nd Ed. 2013. ***Documentary Storytelling – Creative Non-Fiction on Screen***. Oxford: Focal Press.

GLYNNE A. 2012. ***Documentaries... and How to Make Them***. Harpenden: Creative Essentials.

MCIANE B. A. 2nd Ed. 2012. ***A New History of Documentary Film***. New York: Continuum International Publishing Group.

NICHOLS B. 2001. ***Introduction to Documentary***. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

ROTHMAN W. 1997. ***Documentary Film Classics***. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Refer to the Module Guide for a range of up-to-date resources e.g. films, scripts, journal articles, websites and podcasts.

Named Awards

Course
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BAPFMISFU01 BA(Hons) Practical Filmmaking with Integrated Foundation Year (3 years) - CFS