Course Syllabus-Barcelona on Stage: documentary workshop

Language of Instruction: English
Professor: Ricardo Íscar
Professor's Contact and Office Hours: to be announced in the Aula Global
Course Contact Hours: 45 hours
Recommended Credit: 6 ECTS credits
Weeks: 5
Course Prerequisites: None
Language Requirements: None

Time modules: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 11.30 am to 2.30 pm

Course Description:
The goal of this course is to provide students with an introduction to documentary film making. Special attention will be given to the renewal of the Spanish and the Catalan film scene in the last 15 years.
The course consists of both theoretical and practical sessions. During lecture classes the professor will present the history of Spanish and Catalan Documentary and will set the theoretical basis for the production of a Documentary.
During practical sessions students will develop a project of a documentary where they can express their particular way of seeing the Spanish reality. Students will work in small teams to produce a 15 minute film, from the conception of the idea to the final editing, including the writing of the script and the shooting.

Keywords: Barcelona, film making, documentary, contemporary documentaries.

Learning Objectives:
At the end of this course the students:
- Will be have a general theoretical knowledge of the history and styles of the Documentary
- Will learn how to write a script and a Documentary project
- Will participate in the shooting and editing of a short documentary movie.

Course Workload
Students will work in small teams of four people to develop a project suitable to be filmed and presented at the end of the course. At the beginning of the seminar, students will present a project idea to be approved by the professor. Films should be no more than 15 minutes long and will be shot Barcelona by each group.

Methods of Instruction:
The seminar consists of lecture and practical lessons. During lecture classes the professor will present the history of Spanish and Catalan Documentary and will set the theoretical basis for the production of a Documentary. During practical sessions students will exercise this production, from the conception of the idea to the editing of the film; this process, of course, includes the writing of the script and shooting of the film.
Method of Assessment
Student’s final grade will be determined as it follows:
Class participation: 25%
Project synopsis: 25%
Final Documentary Project: 50%

Absence Policy
Attending class is mandatory and will be monitored daily by professors. The impact of absences on the final grade is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Absences</th>
<th>Penalization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Up to two (2) absences</td>
<td>No penalization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three (3) absences</td>
<td>1 point subtracted from final grade (on a 10 point scale)</td>
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<td>Four (4) absences</td>
<td>2 points subtracted from final grade (on a 10 point scale)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five (5) absences or more</td>
<td>The student receives an INCOMPLETE for the course</td>
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The BISS attendance policy does not distinguish between justified or unjustified absences. The student is deemed responsible to manage his/her absences.

Emergency situations (hospitalization, family emergency, etc.) will be analyzed on a case by case basis by the Academic Director of the UPF Summer School.

Classroom Norms:
- No food or drink is permitted in the classrooms
- Students will have a ten-minute break during each hour session
- Students will have access to UPF professional facilities and technical equipments necessary to develop the course and its assignments. The students are responsible for the appropriate use of materials borrowed from the UPF, including lamps, microphones, professional cameras and other materials. Students are also responsible for the correct use of the studios and facilities, etc. Students enrolled in this course will assume the responsibilities that the UPF audiovisual material loan implies, including eventual student’s dismissal from the program in the case of inappropriate use of facilities and/or materials.

Course Contents:
(please note that, given the hands on approach of this course, day and time meetings for class sessions may vary each week. Theory sessions will last 3 hours and practical sessions will last 4 hours)

**Week 1 HISTORY AND STYLES OF DOCUMENTARY**

**Session 1 Introduction** (Tu, June 26, 3 hours)
A brief history: Robert Flaherty and “Nanook of the North”.
Discussion of the reality versus fiction, taking special care of the manipulation and the limits of reality in the films.
The importance of how to look at reality and rediscover the world Observational filmmaking.

**Session 2 Frames and Influences** (We, June 27, 3 hours)
The influence of Flaherty in Spanish contemporary filmmakers like José Luis Guérin, Mercedes Álvarez, and Ricardo Iscar.
Exposition of the different ideas of the course participants. Public discussion.
SESSION 3  THE CINEMA WITH SOCIAL CONCERN (Thu, June 28, 3 hours)
The British Documentary Movement (John Grierson, Cavalcanti, Wright ...)
Filming the work.

WEEK 2 HISTORY AND STYLES OF DOCUMENTARY. PRESENTATION OF SYNOPSIS

SESSION 4 TO WRITE A DOCUMENTARY SCRIPT (Tu, June 3, 3 hours)
To write a Documentary Script: from the first idea to the Script. Synopsis and Treatment. Written examples and films.

SESSION 5 FILMING THE REAL (Wed, July 4, 3 hours)
Main Features. Presentation of Synopsis.

SESSION 6 THE CAMERA AS A WITNESS (Thu, July 5, 3 hours)
The camera as a witness: The Direct Cinema in USA. The films from Pennebacker, Leacock, Drew and Frederick Wiseman. Differences between other styles.

STUDENTS’ PROJECTS
Selection of students’ projects. Each group (4/5 members) should rehearse the project, write and present the script, and discuss it with the reminder of the class.

WEEK 3 SCRIPT AND GETTING READY FOR SHOOTING

SESSION 7 LOOKING BACK IN SPAIN. First Steps: the Importance of Transmission and Education. (Tu, July 10, 3 hours)
Looking back 15 years in Spain: how the production of new documentaries started up in Catalunya. Contemporary Spanish Documentaries.

SESSION 8 SHOOTING PREPARATION (Wed, July 11, 3 hours)
Preparation of the Shooting of the different students’ projects. Each group will have a digital camera and sound equipment to shoot their projects around Barcelona. Introduction to camera and sound equipment.

SESSION 9 SHOOTING (Thu, July 12, 3 hours)
Shooting of the different students’ projects. Each group will have a digital camera and sound equipment to shoot their projects around Barcelona. Professor will host tutorials with each group to accompany their shooting.
*Please, note that students are expected to shoot the films outside of class meeting hours and will have access to audiovisual materials all throughout the week.

WEEK 4 SHOOTING

SESSION 10 SHOOTING (Tu, July 17, 3 hours)
Shooting of the different students’ projects. Each group will have a digital camera and sound equipment to shoot their projects around Barcelona. Professor will host tutorials with each group to accompany their shooting.
*Please, note that students are expected to shoot outside of class meeting hours and will have access to audiovisual materials all throughout the week.

**SESSION 11 SHOOTING** (Wed, July 18, 3 hours)
Shooting of the different students’ projects. Each group will have a digital camera and sound equipment to shoot their projects around Barcelona. Professor will host tutorials with each group to accompany their shooting.
*Please, note that students are expected to shoot outside of class meeting hours and will have access to audiovisual materials all throughout the week.

**SESSION 12 EDITING** (Thu, July 19, 4 hours)
Editing of the material with supervision by the tutor. *Please, note that this class session will last 4 hours and will be meeting in the Editing Rooms.

**WEEK 5 EDITING AND FILM VIEWINGS** (Classes will be meeting in Editing Rooms)

**SESSION 13 EDITING** (Tu, July 24, 4 hours)
Final Editing of the material with supervision by the tutor. *PLEASE, NOTE THAT THIS CLASS SESSION WILL LAST 4 HOURS AND WILL BE MEETING IN THE EDITING ROOMS.

**SESSION 14 FINAL EDITING** (Wed, July 25, 4 hours)
Final Editing of the material with supervision by the tutor. *PLEASE, NOTE THAT THIS CLASS SESSION WILL LAST 4 HOURS AND WILL BE MEETING IN THE EDITING ROOMS.

**SESSION 15 FINAL EDITING** (Thu, July 26, 4 hours)
Film viewings
Projection and analysis of the different projects.
FINAL CONCLUSIONS AND COURSE CLOSURE

**Required Readings:**