

UTEP Dept. of Communication
FILM 3394: Documentary Cinema (F2F)
CRN: 23747
SPRING 2023

Instructor: Dr. Sabiha Khan

Email: skhan2@utep.edu

Meeting Time: Wednesdays 12:30-3:20pm EDUCATION 202

Office hours: After class and virtually via Zoom Meetings by appt

Course Information: What this class is about and what we will do

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will concentrate on an examination of the aesthetics, history, cultural context, social significance, and critical methodologies of the documentary film. Study will begin with the earlier examples of this form, including the pioneering works of such documentarians as Robert Flaherty, Leni Riefenstahl, the Maysles Brothers, and Frederick Wiseman, and continue through more recent extensions of this form. Students will investigate the ideological and formal principles of the non-fiction narrative film. Online modules will include screenings, readings, discussion board participation, and analysis of films based on the screenings and assigned readings.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

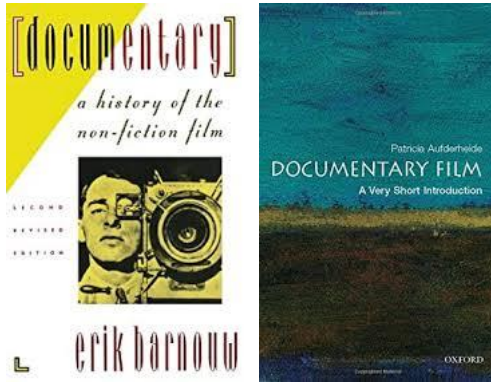
Students will demonstrate disciplinary knowledge of documentary film, including:

- key examples in the development of documentary films, as well as new forms of documentary that have evolved over the history of the genre.
- various theoretical frameworks for analyzing and evaluating documentary films.
- the ethical and legal issues surrounding the production of documentary films.

LEARNING MODULES:

This course uses a modular format using a **Wednesday to Tuesday posting** schedule. New material will be posted on **Wednesdays** (usually two weeks in advance) and you have until the following **Tuesday** to submit all work for that week. In each module, material for two to three weeks is packaged together by broad topic, including: assigned readings, screenings, and short answer responses.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:



Barnouw, Erik. *Documentary: A History of the Non-Fiction Film*, 2nd rev. ed. (NY: Oxford: Oxford UP, 1993).

Patricia Aufderheide, *Documentary Film: A Very Short Introduction* (NY: Oxford UP, 2007).

(available at the UTEP bookstore and on reserve at the library circulation desk).

These books may also be supplemented by assigned and suggested readings, which will be distributed on Blackboard

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

STUDENT EVALUATION: Students will be required to:

I. Complete screenings and readings in each week, complete short writing assignments and quizzes. Complete 3 timed exams.

GRADING: Final grades will be based on the above four areas of participation:

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| I. Module 1 | 5% |
| II. Module 2 | 20% |
| III. Module 3 | 25% |
| IV. Module 4 | 20% |
| V. Exams 1-3 | 30% |

total 100 %

GRADING: 90-100 = A 80-89 = B 70-79 = C 60-69 = D 0-59 = F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, scanner, a webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

Access to Adobe Creative Cloud (you are pre-approved through this course)

Camera kit

Course Communication: How we will stay in contact with each other

- **Office Hours:** We will not be able to meet on campus, but I will still have office hours for your questions and comments about the course. My office hours will be held on Zoom Meetings by appt.
- **Email:** UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.
- **Announcements:** Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

NETIQUETTE

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It's possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of others' ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

Course Policies: What you need to do to be successful in the course

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

Attendance in the course is determined by participation in the learning activities of the course. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners. Participation is determined by completion of the following activities:

- Reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements
- Other activities as indicated in the weekly modules
- In-class discussion

Because these activities are designed to contribute to your learning each week, they cannot be made up after their due date has passed.

EXCUSED ABSENCES AND/OR COURSE DROP POLICY

According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies, "When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of "W" before the course drop deadline and with a grade of "F" after the course drop deadline," which this semester is **MAR 30**. See academic regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of excuse absences. Therefore, if I find that, due to non-

performance in the course, you are at risk of failing, I will drop you from the course. I will provide one week's advance notice via email.

If you prefer to initiate the drop process, then let me know and contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

DEADLINES, LATE WORK, AND ABSENCE POLICY

All assignments will be due on Tuesdays at 11:59 PM. No late work will be accepted if the reason is not considered excusable.

ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (answers to discussion points, quizzes, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a back-up. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your back-up document as a last resort.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

CENTER FOR ACCOMMODATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES POLICY

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu. Or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. CASS staff are the only individuals who can validate and, if need be, authorize accommodation for students with disabilities.

COVID-19 ACCOMMODATIONS

Students are not permitted on campus when they have a positive COVID-19 test, exposure or symptoms. If you are not permitted on campus, you should contact me as soon as possible so we can arrange necessary and appropriate accommodations.

(classes with on-campus meetings) Students who are considered high risk according to CDC guidelines and/or those who live with individuals who are considered high risk may contact [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS) to discuss temporary accommodations for on-campus courses and activities.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY: “The University of Texas at El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence and students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, submitting work for credit that is attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act that gives or attempts to give unfair advantage.”

CLASS RECORDINGS

The use of recordings will enable you to have access to class lectures, group discussions, and so on in the event you miss a synchronous or in-person class meeting due to illness or other extenuating circumstance. Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP’s acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. **You may not share recordings outside of this course.** Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE

Some of your course work and assessments may be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used to review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org

Course Resources: Where you can go for assistance

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Individual Resources

- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

CLASS SCHEDULE

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE NECESSARY CHANGES IN THE SCHEDULE/CALENDAR/ASSIGNMENTS DEPENDING ON THE NEEDS OF THE CLASS AND AVAILABILITY OF MATERIAL.

REQUIRED TEXTS (HENCEFORTH REFERRED TO BY ABBREVIATIONS IN PARENTHESES):

- Barnouw, Erik. *Documentary: A History of the Non-Fiction Film* (EB)
- Patricia Aufderhyde, *Documentary Film: A Very Short Introduction* (PA)

| DATE | WEEK | TOPIC | ASSIGNMENTS/ACTIVITIES/DUE DATES |
|---|------|-----------------------------|--|
| WELCOME MODULE + MODULE 1 : WHAT IS A DOCUMENTARY? | | | |
| JAN 18- JAN 24 | 1 | <i>Course Orientation</i> | <p>IN-CLASS MTG WED JAN 18 12:30-3:20 PM DUE TUES JAN 24 by 11:59 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screen: Welcome Video • Read: Course Syllabus • Complete + Submit: “Read the Syllabus” Assignment |
| JAN 25- JAN 31 | 2 | <i>Defining Documentary</i> | <p>IN-CLASS MTG WED JAN 25 12:30-3:20 PM DUE TUES JAN 31 11:59 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: FUTURE STATES Film Terminology worksheet + readings on BB • Complete + Submit: Film Analysis Terms Quiz • Screen: Spaghetti Harvest (BBC, 1957); Early Cinema and Thomas Edison; Early Cinema and the Lumiere Bros.; <i>Workers Leaving a Factory</i>, <i>Arrival of a Train at La Ciotat</i> (Lumiere Bros., 1895) • Complete + Submit: Defining Documentary response |

MODULE 2: DOCUMENTING OTHERS IN THEIR WORLDS

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| FEB 1 - FEB 7 | 3 | <i>Watching Others' Lives</i> | <p>IN-CLASS MTG WED FEB 1 12:30-3:20 PM</p> <p>DUE TUES FEB 7 by 11:59 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: PA pp. 1-25; EB pp. 3-30; 33-50; GS Ch. 1 [Handout] • Screen: <i>Nanook of the North</i> (Flaherty, 1922); <i>Angry Inuk</i> (Arnaquq-Baril, 2016). • Complete + Submit: All reading + screening questions (on BB) |
| FEB 8- FEB 14 | 4 | <i>Watching the City</i> | <p>IN-CLASS MTG WED FEB 8 12:30-3:20 PM</p> <p>DUE TUES FEB 14 by 11:59PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screen: <i>Berlin: Symphony of a City</i> (Ruttman, 1927); <i>Man with a Movie Camera</i> (Vertov, 1929); <i>Housing Problems</i> (Elton + Anstey, 1935); <i>Cameraperson</i> (Johnson, 2016) • Read: PA 32-34; EB 33-71, 71-81, 85-97; GS, Ch. 2 [handout] • Complete + Submit: Reading + Screening Questions (BB) |
| FEB 15- FEB 21 | 5 | <i>Watching the City Cont'</i> | <p>IN-CLASS MTG WED FEB 15 12:30-3:20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Watching the City" continued • Study: Exam 1 Review Sheet |
| FEB 22- MAR 7 | 6+7 | <i>Prepare for and take Exam 1</i> | <p>NO SCHEDULED CLASS MTG- TAKE EXAM ON BLACKBOARD</p> <p>DUE TUES MAR 7 11:59 PM</p> <p>Complete Exam 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opens FRI MAR 3 AT 8AM • Closes TUES MAR 7 AT 11:59PM • COVERS MODULES 1+2 • FORMAT: Multiple Choice <p>Time: 4 hours Attempts: 2</p> |

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| MODULE 3: CAMERA AS WITNESS TO HISTORY | | | |
|--|-------|--|---|
| MAR 8- MAR 21 | 8+9 | <i>Dramatizing Wartime Realities</i> | <p>IN-CLASS MTG WED MAR 8 12:30-3:20 PM SPRING BREAK MAR 13-17 DUE TUES MAR 21 by 11:59 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screen: Intro video Lecture, YouTube ban of <i>Triumph of the Will</i>; <i>Triumph of the Will</i> (Riefenstahl, 1935); <i>Listen to Britain</i> (Jennings, 1942); <i>The Nazis Strike</i> (Capra, 1943) • Read: GS, Ch. 6, Ch. 9 [handouts] • Complete + Submit: Reading + Screening Questions (BB) |
| MAR 22- MAR 28 | 10 | <i>Observational Cinema</i> | <p>IN-CLASS MTG WED MAR 22 12:30-3:20 PM DUE TUES MAR 28 by 11:59 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screen: <i>Monterey Pop</i> (Pennebaker, 1968); PBS Interview with Frederick Wiseman; Clips from <i>High School</i> (Wiseman, 1968); <i>Chronicle of a Summer</i> (Rouch and Morin, 1961) • Read: EB pp. 231-40; Excerpted essay about Wiseman's work; EB pp. 253-55; excerpted essay about Rouch • Complete + Submit: Written responses (on BB) |
| MAR 29- APR 11 | 11+12 | <i>Prepare for and take Exam 2</i> | <p>IN-CLASS MTG WED MAR 29 12:30-3:20 PM DUE TUES APR 11 by 11:59 PM</p> <p>Complete Exam 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opens FRI MAR 29 at 8 AM • Closes TUES APR 11 at 11:59 PM • COVERS MODULE 3 • FORMAT: Multiple Choice <p>Time: 4 hours Attempts: 2</p> |

| MODULE 4: DOCUMENTARY FILM AS MIRROR | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| APR 12- APR 18 | 13 | <i>Archival Memories</i> | <p>NO IN-CLASS MEETING- DR. KHAN CONFERENCE TRAVEL DUE TUES APR 18 by 11:59 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screen: <i>Night and Fog</i> (Resnais, 1955); <i>History + Memory: For Akiko and Takashige</i> (Tajiri, 1991) • Read: EB 180-82; Resnais essay [handout]; Patricia Aufderheide, "Personal Documentary: War + Memory" [handout] • Complete + Submit: Reading + Screening Questions |
| APR 19- APR 25 | 14 | <i>Self-Portrait As Survival</i> | <p>IN-CLASS MTG WED APR 19 12:30-3:20 PM DUE TUES APR 25 by 11:59 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screen: <i>Tongues Untied</i> (Riggs, 1989); <i>Paris Burning</i> (Livingston, 1990); <i>How to Survive a Plague</i> (France, 2012) • Read: GS Ch. 25 + Ch. 26 (BB) • Complete + Submit: Reading + Screening Questions (BB) |
| APR 26- MAY 12 | 15+ FINALS WEEK | <i>Take Exam 3</i> | <p>IN-CLASS MTG WED APR 26 12:30-3:20 PM DUE FRI MAY 12 by 11: 59PM</p> <p>Complete Exam 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opens FRI MAY 5 AT 8 AM • Closes FRI MAY 12 AT 11:59 PM • COVERS MODULE 4 • FORMAT: Multiple Choice + Short Essay <p>Time: 4 hours Attempts: 2</p> |