





UTEP Dept. of Communication
FILM 3394: Documentary Cinema
CRN: 11242
FALL 2023

Instructor: Dr. Sabiha Khan
 Email: skhan2@utep.edu
 Meeting Time: Wednesdays 12:30-3:20pm Cotton 201
 Delivery Method: In-person
 Office hours: Wednesdays after class or by appt via Zoom

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.

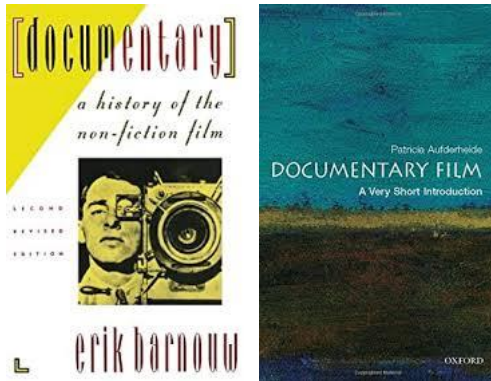
COURSE OBJECTIVES + UNIVERSITY LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Student Learning Objective	Outcome (UTEP Edge Advantages)	
Students will demonstrate disciplinary knowledge of documentary film, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key examples in the development of documentary films, as well as new forms and perspectives 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. 	   	Critical Thinking Problem Solving Global Awareness Social Responsibility

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 Aufderhyde, *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!

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

- **Office Hours:** My office hours will be held after class on Wednesdays and 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 **NOV 3**. 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.

ZOOM CLASS MEETINGS

We may need to meet on Zoom Meetings in the event of pandemic-related shutdowns. I will provide information as needed.

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:

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY: Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

GUIDANCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The use of generative AI tools such as Chat GPT is permitted in this course *only* when explicitly stated in the assignment prompt.

In all other instances, you may not use AI tools to complete assignments.

When generative AI tools are allowed to be used for an assignment, students must cite any borrowed content sources to comply with all applicable citation guidelines, copyright law, and avoid plagiarism. Instances that violate these guidelines will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

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 INFORMATION

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 any questions or concerns about COVID-19, please email covidaction@utep.edu for assistance.

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?			
AUG 30- SEPT 5	1	<i>Course Orientation</i>	<p>IN-CLASS MTG WED AUG 30 12:30-3:20 PM DUE TUES SEPT 5 by 11:59 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Course Syllabus • Complete + Submit: “Read the Syllabus” Assignment
SEPT 6- SEPT 12	2	<i>Defining Documentary</i>	<p>IN-CLASS MTG WED SEPT 6 12:30-3:20 PM DUE TUES SEPT 12 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			
SEPT 13 - SEPT 19	3	<i>Watching Others' Lives</i>	<p>IN-CLASS MTG WED SEPT 13 12:30-3:20 PM DUE TUES SEPT 19 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)
SEPT 20- SEPT 26	4	<i>Watching the City</i>	<p>IN-CLASS MTG WED SEPT 20 12:30-3:20 PM DUE TUES SEPT 26 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)
OCT 4- OCT 10	5	<i>Watching the City Cont'</i>	<p>IN-CLASS MTG WED OCT 4 12:30-3:20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Watching the City" continued • Study: Exam 1 Review Sheet
OCT 11- OCT 24	6+7	<i>Prepare for and take Exam 1</i>	<p>NO SCHEDULED CLASS MTG- TAKE EXAM ON BLACKBOARD DUE TUES OCT 24 11:59 PM</p> <p>Complete Exam 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opens FRI OCT 20 AT 8AM • Closes TUES OCT 24 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			
OCT 25- OCT 31	8+9	<i>Dramatizing Wartime Realities</i>	<p style="color: red; margin: 0;">IN-CLASS MTG WED OCT 25 12:30-3:20 PM</p> <p>DUE TUES OCT 31 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)
NOV 1- NOV 7	10	<i>Observational Cinema</i>	<p style="color: red; margin: 0;">IN-CLASS MTG WED NOV 1 12:30-3:20 PM</p> <p>DUE TUES NOV 7 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)
NOV 8- NOV 21	11+12	<i>Prepare for and take Exam 2</i>	<p style="color: red; margin: 0;">IN-CLASS MTG WED NOV 8 12:30-3:20 PM</p> <p><u>DUE TUES NOV 21 by 11:59 PM</u></p> <p>Complete Exam 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opens FRI NOV 17 at 8 AM Closes TUES NOV 21 at 11:59 PM COVERS MODULE 3 FORMAT: Multiple Choice <p>Time: 4 hours Attempts: 2</p>

MODULE 4: DOCUMENTARY FILM AS MIRROR			
NOV 22- NOV 28	13	<i>Archival Memories</i>	<p>IN-CLASS MTG WED NOV 22 12:30-3:20 PM DUE TUES NOV 28 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
NOV 29- DEC 5	14	<i>Self-Portrait As Survival</i>	<p>IN-CLASS MTG WED NOV 28 12:30-3:20 PM DUE TUES DEC 5 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)
DEC 6- DEC 15	15+ FINALS WEEK	<i>Take Exam 3</i>	<p>IN-CLASS MTG WED DEC 6 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 DEC 8 AT 8 AM • Closes FRI DEC 15 AT 11:59 PM • COVERS MODULE 4 • FORMAT: Multiple Choice + Short Essay <p>Time: 4 hours Attempts: 2</p>