The following course descriptions are presented as a guide for students and academic advisors. Although major alterations are unlikely, instructors reserve the right to make changes in content and requirements.

**Documentary Studies Program**

**DOC 227 (9812) (3crs) Civil Rights: A Documentary Approach**  
Bernard, Sheila (sbernard@albany.edu)  
Tues, Thu, 2:45pm-4:05pm  
LC 03B  
*Cross-listed with HIS 227 (9800)*

This course looks at the intersection of history and media as it pertains to the American civil rights movement. Focusing on the landmark archival television series Eyes on the Prize and a range of primary and secondary sources (documents, films, music, and more), we will study not only the historical events depicted on screen by also the ways in which these events were documented, archived, and later shaped into public media. Only one version of AHIS 227 may be taken for credit.

**DOC 324 (8300) (3crs) Introduction to Documentary Photography**  
VanAcker, Katherine (kvanacker@albany.edu)  
Thurs 5:45pm-8:35pm  
SLG 002  
*Cross listed with JRL 324*  
*Meets with HIS 530 (8794)*

From Matthew Brady’s Civil War photographs, to the work of photographers of the U.S. Farm Security Administration in the 1930s, and through the stunning and emotive images of contemporary social, ethnographic, scientific, and war photographers, documentary photography has experienced a long and vigorous development. In this introductory hands-on workshop, students will examine the long heritage of documentary photography as well as the practical lessons to be learned from renowned practitioners. Students will research and photograph a documentary issue as part of a project that will be sustained throughout the semester (students may choose to also incorporate video components). Students should have a working knowledge of computers and of the fundamentals of digital camera operation, and are required to have access to a digital SLR camera with a zoom lens and flash.

**Prerequisite(s):** restricted to Documentary Studies Program and Journalism majors and minors. Others may be admitted space permitting, and with permission from the instructor.
**DOC 335 (8604) (3crs) History and Theory of Documentary Film**  
Bernard, Sheila C. (sbernard@albany.edu)  
Tues, Thurs 11:45am-1:05pm  
LC 003C  
*Cross-listed with HIS 335 (8603)*

This course explores the history, theory, aesthetics, and modes of the documentary film genre. Through viewing (at home as well as in class), reading about, and writing about works by contemporary directors as well as works by filmmakers from decades past and around the globe, students will explore the elements that contribute to the creation of informative and powerful documentary films, with special emphasis on historically-focused films. We’ll look at the techniques documentary filmmakers utilize to communicate historical ideas in cinematic form, whether for theatrical, broadcast, or non-broadcasts venues. We’ll also explore issues surrounding the preservation of and access to historical audio-visual materials, such as intellectual property rights, the privatization of archives, and fair use exceptions to copyright. Students who have taken HIS 405 in past semesters may not enroll.

Prerequisite(s): junior or senior standing or at least one upper-level history course.

**DOC 394 (9813) (3crs) Workshop in Oral History**  
McCormick, Susan (smccormick@albany.edu)  
Mon, Wed, 2:45pm-4:05pm  
SLG 024  
* Cross-listed with HIS 394 (7699) and WSS 399 (7846)*

This course offers a broad introduction to the history, theory, and practice of oral history – the collection of oral histories; the uses of oral history in historical research, documentary production, and public history; and the interviewing and recording skills needed to conduct successful interviews. Students will explore approaches to interviewing, recording, and editing oral histories, while considering the issues and problems that are part of collecting and using oral histories to construct historical narratives. The class will examine and analyze historical texts and documentary works heavily based on oral history interviews. Students will learn the basics of audio recording and editing will complete several recorded interviews and will complete an extended oral history interview and contextual essay as part of their final project.
DOC 406 (7058) (4crs)  Practicum in Historical Documentary Filmmaking
Roth, Julie Casper (Julie.casper.roth@gmail.com)
Tues, Thurs 11:45am-1:05pm
SLG 024
*Cross-listed with HIS 406 (7057)
Taught with HIS 530 (7616) – this course will count as HIS 610

This course is an intermediate, hands-on workshop in historical documentary filmmaking. With an emphasis on research, content development, and media storytelling, the course will engage students in all aspects of historical documentary production – from pre-production planning, research and writing, to production and post-production. This class will explore various and innovative approaches to historical documentary filmmaking from reenactments to the use of scale models to other approaches. By the end of the semester, students will know how to effectively employ both conventional and out-of-the-box approaches to documentary filmmaking. Students will complete several video exercises and a short-from documentary over the course of the semester.

Prerequisite(s): junior or senior standing and at least one college-level course in film/video production, or permission of the instructor.

DOC 407 (8349) (4crs)  Readings and Practicum in Digital History and Hypermedia
TBD
Tues, Thurs 10:15am-11:35am
SLG 003
*Cross listed with HIS 407(8238)

This course introduces students to the practice of history in the digital age. The emergence of the World Wide Web has opened up new avenues for researching, analyzing, and presenting the past – but has also raised new questions, about producing quality historical scholarship in this open environment. This course will work on two fronts, looking first at the current state of the field of “digital history,” from issues of narrative and hypertext theory to some of the best (and worst) practices of current historical websites. At the same time, as a central component of the course, students will work in collaboration to build their own well-researched and historically sound web projects. Previous experience with building websites is welcomed but not required.

Prerequisite(s): permission of instructor.

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DOC 442 (9841) (4crs) Transmedia Storytelling
Ng, Vivien (vng@albany.edu)
Tues, 5:45pm-8:35pm
FA 0114
*Cross-listed with WSS 442

Students in this workshop learn how to use a variety of new media tools, including—but not restricted to—digital videos, interactive web pages, and animation software, to create a set of linked stories about a singular historical or newsworthy event. Additionally, students learn to search for, collect, and analyze primary sources—e.g. news stories, first-person accounts, government records, cultural artifacts, ephemera, found footage, etc.—stored in archives, libraries, museums, and online databases. Through the processes of research and reflection, students learn to understand the intersections and consequences of class, gender, race, and nationality. The workshop format enables students to participate fully as active learners and peer teachers. Only one version of A WSS 442 may be taken for credit.

*Prerequisite(s): junior or senior standing or permission of instructor.

DOC 450 (5437) (4crs) Documentary Studies Seminar and Fieldwork Practicum
Zahavi, Gerald (gzahavi@albany.edu)
Tues, 5:45pm-8:35pm
SLG 024
*Taught with HIS 607 (5377)

This course is required for the completion of the Major and Minor Documentary Studies. All students are expected to come into the course with skills needed to complete a substantial research-based documentary project in any one of the following forms: audio, video, digital/Web, still photography (with an “exhibit catalog”), or text. Class members will work with oversight from the course instructor as well as appropriate on-campus experts; they will receive feedback, as well, from fellow students enrolled in the course. Discussion of such topics as research, project planning, prospectus preparation, scriptwriting, media ethics, and workflow organization will assist students undertaking their research, production, and postproduction work. Supplementary advanced workshops on specific research and production topics may be offered, but – to emphasize—since this is a senior-level course, students are expected to come in with sufficient production skills in their chosen documentary format to complete their work with minimal technical assistance.

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This is a course designed for students interested in engaging in documentary fieldwork and production projects through internships with on-campus and off-campus organizations, or on their own with close faculty supervision. Students should already have the specific production skills (e.g. filmmaking, photography, audio recording/editing, hypermedia authoring) necessary for the project or internship they wish to undertake. Typical projects or internships might involve mounting documentary photography exhibits, participating in documentary editing projects (including online, nonfiction journals), designing virtual museums and podcasting/video-casting websites, or working as production members on film/video or radio projects. Credit load will depend on the level of engagement and time obligations associated with the specific project undertaken by the student. This course may be repeated for a total of 6 credits. Prerequisite(s): junior or senior standing, a minimum GPA of 2.50, and permission of the instructor. S/U graded.