Interdisciplinary Studies Major
Concentration in Documentary Studies
Fall 2014

A range of courses – in Art, Art History, Film Studies, Communication, English, History, Journalism, and Music – can be used to satisfy requirements for the B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Documentary Studies.

See http://www.albany.edu/docstudies/about-doc-studies.php for a list of these courses, and then check the Schedule of Classes to see which will be offered Fall ‘14.

Below are only the courses with the prefix DOC.

DOC 224 (8314) (3crs) Documentary Media Storytelling
S. Bernard (sbernard@albany.edu)
Tues, Thurs 2:45pm-4:05pm
LC 03B
*Cross-listed with AHIS224 (9607)

This course explores the use of narrative in books, films, and other works intended to present historical content to the general public. Students will watch, read about, write about, and discuss a range of work, developing tools for analyzing and evaluating historical media in terms of both content and craft. This is not a production course.

Prerequisite(s): Restricted to History Department and Documentary Studies Program majors and minors. Others may be admitted space permitting, and with permission from the instructor; successful prior completion of at least one undergraduate U.S. history course is strongly recommended. Students who have previously taken this course as a HIS/DOC 290 or 390 (topics) course may not enroll.

JRL 225 (8374) (3crs) Media Law and Ethics
S. Barnes
Monday, 5:45-8:35 pm
ES 139

(Also counts as DOC 225) This course examines strategies for making good ethical decisions in newsgathering and writing as well as the laws that pertain to daily journalism and public relations. The course covers the major ethical theories and philosophies and the major legal cases that journalists must know. Emphasis will be on actual cases and hypothetical situations encountered in daily journalism. The course pays special attention to some of the most common dilemmas – libel, free press/fair trial conflicts, anonymous sources, and publishing content that can harm people. Only one version may be taken for credit. Prerequisite(s): restricted to Journalism, Documentary Studies, and History majors and minors. Others may be admitted space permitting, and with permission of the instructor.
**DOC 251 (5584) (3crs)**

**Introduction to Documentary Studies**

S. McCormick (SmCormick@albany.edu)

Mon, Wed 2:45pm-4:05pm

LC 03C

*Cross-listed with AHIS 251 (5543)*

This course is divided into 3 sections, beginning with the question “What is a documentary?” the class will explore that question, and others, as we lay the groundwork to examine the historical, social, cultural, legal, and ethical dimensions of documentary production. Understanding that there are multiple documentary forms in addition to film and video—including narrative non-fiction, photography, audio, and new media/multimedia, this class will explore their history, best examples, key characteristics, and notable practitioners. We will consider some of the major themes in documentary work across forms and genres, as well as how technological innovation has shaped documentary work over time. Those enrolled in AHIS 251 will bring an historical focus to their work in the course. As the gateway course for the Documentary Studies major and minor, this course is not only about understanding what others have done in both the recent and distant past, but developing a foundation for future work in the major and minor.

---

**DOC 323 (8315) (3crs)**

**Foundations of Documentary Films**

TBA

Tues, Thurs 1:15pm-2:35pm

SLG 24

This course will ground students in the fundamentals of researching, planning, shooting, and editing digital video. Students will work individually and in teams on exercises assigned by the instructor. The course offers a comprehensive introduction to the basics of documentary film production, and as such provides a foundation for all students interested in documentary media, including those who go on to work in historical and non-historical content areas such as social issue, ethnographic, scientific, or political documentary. Students will develop a solid hands-on understanding of the basic tools of media storytelling and choices involved, thus enhancing their overall media literacy.

---

**DOC 330 (10002) (3crs)**

**Documentary Web/Hypermedia Production**

TBA

Mon 5:45pm-8:35pm

AS 13

*Cross-listed with AHIS 330(10001)*

Web-based or digital multimedia documentaries utilize a variety of hypermedia digital elements to construct compelling, interactive, linear and nonlinear “stories” on nonfiction topics. This course will cover fundamentals of web site and digital multimedia composition through assigned short projects.

---

May 30, 2014
JRL 363 (9591) (3crs) Visual Culture
T. Palmer
Mo, We, Fri 11:30 am – 12:25 pm
SS 133
(Also counts as DOC 363) The course explores the increasing predominance of visual media in contemporary life. It examines how traditional narrative forms of storytelling are being replaced by visual forms of storytelling in journalism, photojournalism, film, television, the internet, video games, anime, graphic novels, and advertising. Particular emphasis will be paid to the global flow of visual culture and the technologies that facilitate these cultural exchanges. Readings range from Marshall McLuhan and Laura Mulvey to contemporary writers on visual culture. May not be taken by students with credit for A JRL/T JRL 220.

DOC 380 (9602) (3crs) Photojournalism
K. VanAcker (kvanacker@albany.edu)
Thu 5:45pm-8:35pm
SLG 02
Photojournalism is a digital photography workshop. Students are taught the fundamentals, theory and practices of photojournalism through lectures, readings, writings and practical photography assignment work. Students are required to photograph weekly assignments and present their work for group critique. Students produce a final project that they research, photograph and execute in a multi-media format which demonstrates the breadth of material and techniques covered over the course of the semester. Because the class has a multi-media component, students will use a combination of their still photography along with audio that they record and edit to create audio slideshows to further advance their photojournalism narrative storytelling skills. Some prior photography experience is recommended. A digital SLR camera is required for this class. The software you will use for this class includes PhotoShop, audio editing software like Audacity or Garage Band, video and multimedia software like iMove, Windows Movie Maker, Final Cut, Sony Vegas and Sound Slides and are available on various computers throughout campus. Open only to JRL Majors/Minors & Doc Studies Majors

DOC 499 (6245) (1-4crs) Special Projects and Internship in Documentary Studies
G. Zahavi (gzhahi@albany.edu)
Arranged
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.

May 30, 2014
DOC 499 (8151) (1-4crs)  
Special Projects and Internship in Documentary Studies  
S. Bernard (sbernard@albany.edu)  
Arranged

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 internship they wish to undertake. Typical projects or internship 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.