Documentary Studies Program
UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
FALL 2013 (updated July 19)

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. Also, remember that this is an interdisciplinary major – courses in Art, Art History, Communication, Journalism, Music, and Women's Studies also satisfy some Doc Studies requirements. See www.albany.edu/docstudies for details.

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE UALBANY DOCUMENTARY STUDIES PROGRAM GROUP ON FACEBOOK for info on upcoming internships and other opportunities.

**DOC 224 (9228) (3crs)**
S. Bernard (sbernard@albany.edu)
Tues, Thurs 11:45am-1:05pm
LCOO3B
*Cross-listed with HIS 290*

What is narrative, and what role does it play in conveying (nonfiction) historical content to the public, in books, plays, or films? Are there more and less effective approaches to shaping historical stories from primary and secondary source materials? This course explores the use of narrative in works intended to present factual history to the general public. Students will learn to recognize and discuss structure, character, point of view, and conflict; develop tools for evaluating the historical as well as creative content of narrative projects; and explore current issues facing those who use historical materials (including archival materials) in their storytelling. Success in this course depends on reading, viewing and completing written assignments outside of class in preparation for in-class discussion and activities. Prerequisite(s): Successful prior completion of at least one undergraduate U.S. History course strongly recommended. Students who have taken this course as a HIS 390 (topics) course with Prof. Bernard may not enroll.

**DOC 251 (5859) (3crs)**
S. McCormick (smcCormick@albany.edu)
Mon, Wed 2:45pm-4:05pm
BA 212
*Cross-listed with HIS 251 (5809)*

This course will be divided into three major sections. First, we will ask “What is a documentary?” One of the most widely quoted definitions is that of John Grierson who suggests that documentary is the “the creative treatment of actuality.” We will explore that definition, and others, as we lay the groundwork to examine the social, cultural, legal and ethical considerations inherent in all documentary production. We will then look at specific documentary forms, their history, best examples, notable characteristics, and key practitioners. Finally we will look at some of the major themes of documentary work across themes and genres-in print, photography, film/video, audio, and hypermedia/multimedia. We will also consider how technological innovation has shaped the work of the documentarian over time. 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. Those enrolled in A HIS 251 are expected to bring an historical perspective to their work in the course.

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July 19, 2013
**DOC 323 (9229) (3crs)**

*Foundations of Documentary Film Making*

J. Roth ([jroth@albany.edu](mailto:jroth@albany.edu))

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

SLOG24

*Meets with HIS 390 (8633) and HIS 530 (8880)*

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 (9230) (3crs)**

*Foundations of Documentary Web/Hypermedia Production*

K. Garrigue

Tues, Thurs 10:15am-11:35am

SLOG 02

*Meets with HIS 390 (8634) and HIS 530 (8881)*

Web-based or digital multimedia documentaries utilize a variety of hypermedia digital elements to construct compelling, interactive, linear and nonlinear "stories" on a variety of non-fiction topics. This course will cover the basic skills needed to produce Web/hypermedia documentaries, including project design, research, content selection (and evaluation), and digital authoring. Students will master fundamentals of Web site and digital multimedia composition through assigned short projects on nonfiction topics, with the specific focus area(s) — such as social issues, science, history — to be determined by the instructor's area of expertise and interest. Prerequisite(s): restricted to Documentary Studies majors and minors; all others with permission of instructor.

**DOC 390 (7683) (3crs)**

*Topics in Documentary Studies: Photojournalism*

K. VanAcker ([kvanacker@albany.edu](mailto:kvanacker@albany.edu))

Thurs 5:45pm-8:35pm

SLOG 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 SoundSlides and are available on various computers throughout campus.
DOC 390 (TBD) (4 cr)  
S. Bernard (sbernard@albany.edu)  
Tues, 4:15pm-7:05pm  
SLOG24  
Meets with HIS 390 and HIS 530

This is an advanced course that challenges students to understand what it takes to craft compelling stories out of academic content. This semester’s focus is history, but the narrative tools explored are relevant to any documentary subject. In a workshop-style setting, students will watch, read about, and write about historical documentaries, considering not only content (including the use of written and audiovisual evidence) but also craft—the ways in which content is shaped to reach to non-academic audiences. Over the course of the semester, student will also work to develop their own storytelling skills, individually researching, writing, and revising a written treatment for a full-length historical documentary such as those aired on PBS’s American Experience. This is not a production course. [Course to become DOC 412.] Prerequisite(s): Permission of instructor and junior or senior standing or at least 3 upper-level credits in history or documentary studies.

DOC 499 (ARR) (1-4crs)  
G. Zahavi  
Arranged

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.

DOC 499 (9031) (1-4crs)  
S. Bernard (sbernard@albany.edu)  
Arranged

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.