

Instructor: Laska Jimsen, Associate Professor of Cinema & Media Studies
Office: Weitz Center 128 / ljimsen@carleton.edu / 507.222.7679
Time/Place: Tuesdays 10:20am-12:05pm / Zoom (synchronous)

COURSE DESCRIPTION/OBJECTIVES/EXPECTATIONS

This course addresses nonfiction media as both an art form and a historical practice by exploring the expressive, rhetorical, and political possibilities of nonfiction production. A focus on relationships between form and content and between makers, subjects, and audiences will inform our approach to a variety of modes. Throughout the course we will pay special attention to the ethical concerns that arise from making media out of others' lives. The course culminates in the production of a significant nonfiction media project.

Prerequisite: Cinema and Media Studies 111 or permission of the instructor.

Course Policies/Production

- Safe + Legal (including - but not limited to - following the Carleton Community Covenant)
- Follow Delivery Specifications and Vimeo Directions (both on Moodle) carefully.
- Credit everyone who works with you; spell everyone's name correctly
- Disclose any pre-recorded material and submit documentation about how you are using it legally (public domain, Creative Commons, fair use claim, or permission)
- Submit releases for talent, locations, etc.
- Back up your work!
- Read any and all error messages you encounter on equipment or software. Please email Paul Bernhardt, Alexis Apostolou, and me the details as soon as possible, including a screenshot or photo, so that we can promptly work to resolve any issues.

Required Materials

- One 7200RPM Mac-compatible external hard drive with USB3 and/or Thunderbolt connectivity (500 Gigs and bus-powered recommended) + an additional back-up drive of your own or a "Back-Up Buddy"

Specifications above are compatible with our Weitz 138 computers; you may have different specs for your own computer.

- One 32GB Class 10 SD Card (Lexar or Sandisk are recommended)
- A calendar (either paper or electronic)
- An "idea notebook"
- Headphones

(Readings are available on Moodle)

I recognize the potential financial burden of additional course fees, supply requirements, and travel costs. If you are in need of assistance to cover course expenses, please discuss this with me.

Additional Resources

The CAMS Production Office: Weitz 139,

<https://apps.carleton.edu/curricular/cams/productionoffice/>

- Paul Bernhardt: pbernhardt@carleton.edu/507.222.5698
- Alexis Apostolou: apostoloua@carleton.edu /507.222.5434

The Idea Lab/PEPS: <http://apps.carleton.edu/idealab> 507.222.7070

Adobe Premiere Pro Online Forums

• Creative Cow Premiere forum: <http://forums.creativecow.net/adobepremierepro>

• Adobe Support Communities/ Premiere Pro:

<https://forums.adobe.com/community/premiere>

LinkedIn Learning

Video tutorials will be required “reading” for class; I encourage you to explore additional tutorials. Directions for logging in are on Moodle.

Grades and Grading Policies

Your final grade in this course is determined by your performance on in- and out-of-class media projects, writing, and your participation and attendance. Points are assigned as follows:

60-Second Self Portrait: 12%

Observation of Place or Process (includes written observations): 16%

Group ACE Project: 22%

Individual Final Project: 30%

Class Participation and Attendance: 20%

PRELIMINARY COURSE SCHEDULE

***Note:** Pacing of assignments and course content might be modified based on the needs and interests of the class. Please remember to refer to Moodle for updates.

Unless otherwise noted, due dates refer to the Tuesday class each week.

Week 1

Tues, September 15:

TOPIC: Course Policies and Objectives; Nonfiction Forms

ASSIGN: 60-Second Self Portrait

Outside Screenings (all on Kanopy):

Marlon Riggs – *Tongues Untied* (1989)

Su Friedrich – *Sink or Swim* (1990)

Rea Tajiri – *History and Memory: For Akiko and Takashige* (1991)

Recommended: Ross McElwee - *Sherman's March* (1986)

Thurs, September 17:

TOPIC: Self Portraiture in the Arts, Nonfiction Media, and the Digital Age

DUE: Responses to readings and screenings

Share one social media account or post that you believe is a “good” self portrait. These will be shared with the entire class.

READING DUE: Jim Lane, “The Convergence of Autobiography and Documentary”

Roberts-Breslin, “Sound and Image”

Frank Paine, “Sound Mixing and *Apocalypse Now*: An Interview with Walter Murch”

CAMS Production Office policies, Delivery Specifications, Vimeo Specifications (all at top of Moodle page)

RECOMMENDED: Scott MacDonald, Interview with Su Friedrich

Scott MacDonald, Interview with Ross McElwee

Philip Brian Harper, “Marlon Riggs: The Subjective Position of Documentary Video”

Week 2

****60-Second Self Portrait due Tuesday, September 22, 8am to Class Google Drive 9am to Class Vimeo****

Tues, September 22

DUE: **60-Second Self Portrait Hypothesis**

ASSIGN: Observation of Place or Process (including written observations)

SCREEN: Eloise Sherrid – *The Room of Silence* (2016); 60-Second Self Portraits

Thurs, September 24

DUE: **Self Evaluation for 60-Second Self Portrait**

TOPIC: Watching and Waiting; Looking and Listening

SCREEN: Selections from: Larry Gottheim, Michel Brault, Emily Richardson

READING DUE: Stan Brakhage, “Metaphors on Vision”

Annie Dillard, “Seeing,” from *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*

Diane Ackerman, "Are We Living in Sensory Overload or Sensory Poverty?" (NYT)
Bernie Krause, *The Great Animal Orchestra* (excerpt)

Outside Screening: Frederick Wiseman – *High School* (1968)

Week 3

Tuesday, September 29

DUE: Written Observation #1

SCREEN: Selections from: Deborah Stratman, Naomi Uman; Joris Ivens

READING DUE: Gordon Cullen, excerpt from *The Concise Townscape*

Outside Screening: Elizabeth Barret - *Stranger with a Camera* (2000)

Thursday, October 1

DUE: Written Observation #2 & #3

LECTURE: Documentary Ethics

ASSIGN: Group ACE Project; Groups formed for ACE Project

IN-CLASS: ACE Community Partners will come to class to workshop and plan projects

READING DUE: Calvin Pryluck, "Ultimately We are All Outsiders: The Ethics of Documentary Filmmaking" (Moodle)
Sam Kauffmann, "Tips for a More Successful On-Camera Interview"

Week 4

****Observation of Process or Place due Monday, October 5, 6pm to Class Drobo; 9pm to Class Vimeo****

Tuesday, October 6

DUE: Observation of Process or Place Hypothesis

SCREEN: Observation of Process or Place

Thurs, October 8

DUE: Observation of Process or Place Self Evaluations

DUE: Proposals and Pitches for ACE Project

LECTURE: Narrative Concepts; Character Development

SCREEN: The Maysles Brothers, Erroll Morris

READING DUE: Jill Godmillow, "Kill the Documentary as We Know It"

Week 5

**** Written response to community partner proposal feedback due Monday, October 12, 10am****

Tuesday, October 13

LECTURE: Planning for Post-Production in Pre-Production

ASSIGN: Final Project; Final Project Proposal and Pitch

READING DUE: Alan Rosenthal, "Shaping the Film"

Thursday, October 15

IN-CLASS: Group ACE Project Shoot Day

Week 6

Note: Monday, October 19 is Midterm Break

Tuesday, October 20

LAB: Editing Group ACE Projects

****ACE Community Video Rough Cuts due Wednesday, October 21, 9am to Vimeo****

Thursday, October 22

DUE: Final Project Proposals & Pitches

IN-CLASS: Meet with ACE community partners

Week 7

****Group ACE Project Due Tuesday, October 27 8am to Google Drive, 9am to Vimeo****

Tuesday, October 27

DUE: Group ACE Project Hypothesis Due

SCREEN: Group ACE Project

Thursday, October 29

DUE: Individual Group ACE Project Self Evaluations

Outside Screening: Errol Morris – *The Thin Blue Line* (1988)

Week 8

****NOTE: Tuesday, November 3 is election day****

DUE: Footage for Final Projects

Week 9

Tuesday, November 10

DUE: Rough Cut of Final Projects

Outside Screening: Adam & Zach Khalil – *INAATE/SE/* (2016)

Thursday, November 12

DUE: Fine Cut of Final Projects

Week 10

****Final Projects Due Monday, November 16, Noon to Class Drobo; 3pm to Class Vimeo****

Tuesday, November 17

DUE: Final Project Hypothesis; peer feedback notes

SCREEN: Final Projects!

Note: Wednesday, November 18 is the last day of classes

Monday, November 23, 8:30am (our official final exam time)

DUE: Final Response/Self Evaluation

Final Project Revisions (optional)