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FILM 448.01A: Documentary Production - Theory and Practice

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Documentary: Theory and Practice - FILM 448

Instructor: Sean O'Brien at sean.o'brien@mso.umt.edu
Office hours: MW 11-12:30 in LA 110 and by apt.

Readings: Handouts

Requirements: Short film analysis essays
Documentary treatment
Documentary exercises
15-minute documentary: All students will be required to show their documentary in the class's *We Did It Ourselves Film Festival* at the Crystal Theater on Sunday, December 11.
Note: NO DOCUMENTARY SHOULD EXCEED FIFTEEN MINUTES!

Schedule:

- 8/31** Introduction
Assignment for 9/14- 2-pg. review of *Brother's Keeper*
- ½ pg. review of four docs from Sean's list
- 9/7** Discussion of *Brother's Keeper*
Approaches to Documentary
Due today: review of *Brother's Keeper* plus 4 other short reviews
Assignments for 9/14: Composition exercises
2-3 minute documentary (Do not exceed 3 minutes and no faux documentaries!!)
Treatment for the final documentary
- 9/14** Documentary Basics: Pre-Production, Production, Post-Production
Critique student documentaries
Choose documentaries and groups
Due today: Treatment for documentary
Assignment for 9/21: Short review essay of *The White Diamond*
- 9/21** The Interview - Bring your cameras!!
Due today: 2-pg. review essay of *The White Diamond*
Assignment for 9/28: a 15- minute interview cut to 3 minutes

- 9/28** **Cover**
Critique of interviews
Due today: 3-minute cut interview
Assignment for 10/5: cover a 3-minute interview
- 10/5** **Critique of covered interview**
Shooting video: guest lecture
Due today: cover of 3-minute interview
Assignment for 10/12: non-interview, character development exercise
- 10/12** **Critique of non-interview exercise**
Due today: non-interview exercise
Assignment for 10/19- Keep going - have something to show!!
- 10/19** **The Introduction**
Due Today: show something new
Assignment for 10/26 - Documentary's Introduction
- 10/26** **Workshopping Introductions**
Due today - Documentary's Introduction
Assignment for 11/2 - first half of doc.
- 11/2** **Workshopping first half of documentary**
Due today: first half of documentary
Assignment for 11/19 - ¾ of the documentary
- 11/9** **Workshopping ¾ cut**
Assignment for 11/16 -First complete cut
- 11/16** **Workshopping first cut**
Due today: Complete first cut of documentary
Assignment for 11/23 - Second cut of documentary
- 11/23** **Thanksgiving Break**
- 11/30** **Workshopping second cut of documentary**
Assignment: polish, polish, polish
- 12/7** **FINAL CUT OF DOCUMENTARY DUE**
- 12/11** **CLASS'S DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL AT THE CRYSTAL THEATER at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11**

THERE WILL BE A FINAL EXAM MONDAY, DEC. 12, From 11:00-12:00 a.m.