EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
FILM AND VIDEO
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Department of Cinema and Media Arts
FA / FILM 4310 3.0 SECTION A
THE I-DOC
FALL 2018 / WINTER 2019

Last Modified Date: 10/18/2018

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Studies the theory and practice of interactive web documentaries, participatory online projects, and docu-games as these are reshaping the way we tell, produce and distribute documentary experience in the digital age. Prerequisite: FA/FILM 2200 and FA/FILM2230, or permission of the department.

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INSTRUCTOR(S)

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ng-Chan, Taien</td>
<td>Sec. A / LECT / F</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

Situated between art, documentary and activism, interactive documentaries are generating new and innovative forms of database documentaries, immersive and mobile experiences, and global and collaborative documentary projects that implicate spectators in ways that are radically distinct from conventional analogue or broadcast media.

The course involves two components: a theoretical/critical investigation that attempts to theorize the interactive documentary through in class lectures, readings and group discussions, and a practicum component that will involve individual and small group production using interactive editing and publishing software. The latter component will rely on student access to personal cameras and editing software, and will involve students in the collaborative conceptualization, design, production, editing and posting of an interactive documentary. **This course is very much conceived as an experiment in doing and learning so be prepared that individual initiative and improvisation will be a guiding rule.** The schedule may be changed or adjusted to accommodate our different learning processes. **Equipment tutorials:** The course website has a page which lists a series of online tutorials for equipment. Students are expected to go through this outside of class time.

TOPICS AND CONCEPTS

Documentary Media Practices and Contexts, Technology, Activism, Digital Photography, Web, Audio and Video Production, Immersive and Transmedia Storytelling

Schedule (subject to change):
1. Sept 5 – Introduction, Discussion of Assignments, Principals of non-linear documentary storytelling
2. Sept 12 – Documentary Storytelling Basics: Story, character, location, history, access. DIGITAL DSLR CAMERA WORKSHOP
3. Sept 19 – The interview and the location. SOUND WORKSHOP with Zoons
5. Oct 3 – Intro to Interface Design
OCTOBER 10 READING WEEK6. Oct 17 – Workshop of Interface Mock-ups, sequences shot so far
8. Oct 31 – The 360VR documentary
9. Nov 7 (class moved to November 10/11th – workshop with IR Labs and Social VR)
10. Nov 14 – No Class – Work on SocialVR Projects
11. Nov 21 – screening of Social VR Projects, workshop of final drafts of interactive docs
12. Nov 28 – Final Screenings

LIST OF LEARNING OUTCOMES AND EXAMPLES OF

This course explores the way in which contemporary interactive documentaries are reinventing documentary’s primary vocation to ‘creatively interpret reality through the strategic use of the internet, social media and new paradigms of social activism and community formation. Extending the purview of conventional documentaries in collecting, recording, archiving and bearing witness, interactive documentaries utilize a full spectrum of performance, persuasion and complex audio-visual interfaces to engage spectators as live users and collaborators in the production of meaning and social affect. Beginning with a close analysis of a wide spectrum of participatory online projects, web docs, docu-games, collaborative documentaries, and transmedia, mobile and non-linear documentaries, the course studies the radically transformative influence of interaction on authorial and production processes and the role audience participation plays in reshaping the way we tell (produce and distribute) documentary stories in the digital age.

GRADED ASSESSMENT

Attendance and Participation (documented through meeting minutes) 20%
Weekly Mini-Assignments 40%
Final Interactive Documentary 40%

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Last date to drop a fall term (F) course without receiving a grade: November 19, 2018
Last date to drop a winter term (W) course without receiving a grade: March 8, 2019
Last date to drop a full year (Y) course without receiving a grade: February 8, 2018

Academic Policies / Information

The Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy (ASCP) provides a Student Information Sheet that includes:
• York’s Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures / Academic Integrity Web site
• Access/Disability
• Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants
• Religious Observance Accommodation
• Student Code of Conduct

Additional information:
• Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
• Alternate Exam and Test Scheduling
• Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy

The Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy stipulates that (a) the grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and that, (b) under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for ‘full year’ courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade.
• Important University Sessional Dates (you will find classes and exams start/end dates, reading/co-curricular week, add/drop deadlines, holidays, University closings and more.
http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/index.htm
• "20% Rule"

No examinations or tests collectively worth more than 20% of the final grade in a course will be given during the final 14 calendar days of classes in a term. The exceptions to the rule are classes which regularly meet Friday evenings or on Saturday and/or Sunday at any time, and courses offered in the compressed summer terms.

Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.

Many courses utilize Moodle, York University’s course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.
Moodle @ York University