

# COURSE DETAIL

## DOCUMENTARY

**Country**

United Kingdom - England

**Host Institution**

University of London, Royal Holloway

**Program(s)**

University of London, Royal Holloway

**UCEAP Course Level**

Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

Film & Media Studies

**UCEAP Course Number**

120

**UCEAP Course Suffix****UCEAP Official Title**

DOCUMENTARY

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

DOCUMENTARY

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

6.00

**UCEAP Semester Units**

4.00

## **Course Description**

This course examines the ideas that both audiences and filmmakers commonly use to discuss documentaries. Each week students examine a single film whose construction highlights a particular issue, and discuss it in conjunction with a selected written text. The ideas examined fall into three related groups. The first is that of the development of documentary: What is documentary? How have the ideals of documentary changed over its history? What has been the role of technology in the development of documentary? The second is that of the filming process: What are the limits of what can be filmed? What happens when people know they are being filmed? What kinds of performance are acceptable and even necessary? Can truthfulness ever be established? The third is that of our own experience and expectations as audiences: What kinds of construction or even manipulation do we want in order to make factual footage comprehensible? Can we cope with ambiguities? What do we want from photographs, moving images, and recorded sounds? What happens when we see and hear exceptional or traumatic events through documentary? On the way students meet hopeless alcoholics, gangster rappers, London firemen, and reactions to 9/11.

## **Language(s) of Instruction**

English

## **Host Institution Course Number**

MA2052

## **Host Institution Course Title**

DOCUMENTARY

## **Host Institution Campus**

Royal Holloway, University of London

## **Host Institution Faculty**

## **Host Institution Degree**

## **Host Institution Department**

Film and Media Studies

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