

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 Course Details

https://ssb-prod.ec.royalholloway.ac.uk/PROD/bwckctlg.p_disp_catalog_syllabus?c...

Host Institution Campus

Royal Holloway, University of London

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Film and Media Studies

Course Last Reviewed

2018-2019

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