

COURSE DETAIL

FORMS AND LANGUAGES OF DOCUMENTARY CINEMA

Country

Italy

Host Institution

University of Bologna

Program(s)

University of Bologna

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Italian Film & Media Studies

UCEAP Course Number

146

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

FORMS AND LANGUAGES OF DOCUMENTARY CINEMA

UCEAP Transcript Title

DOCUMENTARY CINEMA

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

By the end of the course, the student: has an in-depth knowledge of the films, the directors, and the main trends of the history of documentary cinema; has an in-depth knowledge of the creative features of documentaries, as well as of their production and distribution process; and is able to identify and analyze the linguistic and expressive characteristics of documentary cinema. The course investigates the history of documentary cinema from its origins to nowadays, taking into consideration the key moments of its historical development. The course considers the international panorama with some focuses on specific areas where, in given historical moments, new movements, styles, and approaches in making documentaries emerged. The course pays particular attention to the following topics: the origins of cinema; the two fathers of documentaries (Robert Flaherty and Dziga Vertov); the British social documentaries; documentaries and propaganda; the relationship between Italian Neorealism and documentary films; Cine Vérité in France and the Direct Cinema in the United States; activist documentaries; mockumentary; interactive documentary; contemporary Italian documentaries. During the course, a constant comparison between fiction films and documentary films is considered in order to achieve a better understanding of their own specific features and a well-designed definition of documentary cinema. The historical and text analysis are integrated by the investigation of documentary production and circulation. In the final part of the course, a special lecture is devoted to documentary financing in Italy. Mandatory filmography: Nanook of the North (Robert J. Flaherty, 1922); Man with a Movie Camera (Dziga Vertov, 1929); Comizi d'amore/Love Meetings (Pier Paolo Pasolini, 1964); The Blair Witch Project (Daniel Myrick & Eduardo Sanchez, 1999); Bowling for Columbine (Michael Moore, 2003).

Language(s) of Instruction

Italian

Host Institution Course Number

96407

Host Institution Course Title

FORME E LINGUAGGI DEL DOCUMENTARIO (1)

Host Institution Course Details

<https://www.unibo.it/en/study/course-units-transferable-skills-moocs/course-uni...>

Host Institution Campus

BOLOGNA

Host Institution Faculty**Host Institution Degree**

L in DRAMA, ART AND MUSIC STUDIES

Host Institution Department

Arts

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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