Module Specification

Documentary

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Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Documentary

Module code: UALAUS-30-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2021-22

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Faculty: Faculty of Arts Creative Industries & Education

Department: ACE Dept of Creative & Cultural Industries

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Bower Ashton Campus

Field: Lens and Moving Image

Module type: Project

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The aim of this module is to enable students to build strong understandings of documentary filmmaking through practice. A fundamental

underpinning of the module is to provoke students into creatively interpreting the world around them through research based production.

Outline syllabus: Indicative syllabus:

Historical development of the documentary genre and how it applies to contemporary contexts of production

Contextual understanding of documentary genre, to include audience, ideology, ethics, and narrative

Development of an experiential understanding of documentary research methods and to creatively apply findings to developing production work

What is editorial judgment?

Access issues and working with contributors and presenters

How to collate, organise and edit research findings in the form of a pitch, treatments and scripts and a working production folder

Technical and production skills that can be applied to a range of production situations

Production management skills, to include team-working, appropriate risk assessment, location filming scheduling and budgeting

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Students are challenged to consider different forms of documentary filmmaking while developing their own project with a clear aesthetic approach. Working in small teams, they collaboratively develop documentary ideas and scripts in an agreed form through a period of negotiation with

their peers and tutors. They shape the story whilst researching their topic in depth and planning the production, including sourcing potential contributors and agreeing access. In production, they work as small mobile crews, with each student undertaking a 'Head of Department' role as per industry standard.

Lectures introduce aspects of the syllabus which are expanded on in screenings, seminars and workshops. Technical workshops develop students' skills in editing, camera work, sound recording and other appropriate techniques as outlined in the Module Handbook. In addition, there are group tutorials. A Pitch Presentation roughly halfway through the module enables formative and summative assessment. A final teaching day enables the presentation of completed projects to the whole cohort for the purpose of a live critique in relation to academic theory, industry context and professional practice.

Module Learning outcomes:

MO1 Apply research and creative development methodologies appropriate to documentary production

MO2 Demonstrate understanding of the documentary genre, including key concepts such as ethics, narrative and audience

MO3 Clearly communicate proposed programme ideas by means of a professional pitch and supporting documents

MO4 Apply appropriate technical and production skills with a clear aesthetic approach to documentary filmmaking

MO5 Produce engaging, creative documentary work, demonstrating discriminating editorial judgement

MO6 Evaluate the development of the overall learning process in relation to documentary production

MO7 Demonstrate industry standard professionalism throughout the production process

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Total = 300

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ualaus-30-2.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment strategy:

The assessments have been designed to mirror industry standard practice while supporting brave filmmaking and creative problem solving. They are also designed to reward clear professional activity in all areas of production from the early planning stage through to post production. There is also an assessment point midway through the module to ensure that research and creative development are meaningfully engaged with before the production and postproduction processes begin. The assessment strategy also enables the assessment of both individual and group work. It will be possible to weigh the balance of the individual students' effort, independent thinking and research that contributes to the Pitch Presentation and the Final Project via each students' contribution to the supporting written materials and production 'deliverables' pack in each of these elements respectively and this may allow for marks to vary from individual to individual. In addition, The Individual Portfolio may provide further evidence of the individual students' contribution to the Final Project. This strategy ensures a balance between process and product, and also between the crucial elements of teamwork and individual contribution.

Formative assessment:

Formative assessment activities that involve students participating in the evaluation of presented work (their own and others') take place throughout the module. All students are expected to contribute to the critical evaluation of fellow students' work.

Feedback (verbal and/or in writing) at regular points throughout the module provides students with a clear understanding of their progress and advice about how this can be improved.

Summative assessment:

Component A1: Pitch Presentation (20%)
Component A2: Final Project (50%)
Component A3: Individual Portfolio (30%)

Guidance detailed requirements for each element are fully explained in the Module Handbook. In brief:

Pitch Presentation (group mark): group presentation in the form of a professional pitch plus appropriate supporting written materials.

Final Project (group mark): a work in an agreed documentary form demonstrating a high level of creative skill in the team's technical approach to all areas of the production including story-telling, editing, sound design, camera, production design and production management. The film should be supported by a production 'deliverables' pack.

The Individual Portfolio (individual mark) will consist of a selection of supporting materials such as relevant film research and analysis, research, planning and development appropriate to the student's specific crew role. This will also provide proof of professionalism demonstrated throughout the preproduction, production, and post-production process.

Assessment criteria (as related to learning outcomes):

Research and Creative Development: the level of ability to employ appropriate research as a coherent strategy; the level of creative exploration in the development process;

Audience Engagement and Storytelling: the level of ability to engage the audience in a documentary subject;

Craft and Technical Skills: the level of appropriate technical skill evident in the work;

Professional Practice: the level of effective collaborative team working to achieve all aspects of production and the confident use of transferable and communication skills;

Contextual Understanding and Critical Analysis: the level of contextual awareness that underpins the creative process and evaluation; the level of discriminating editorial judgment evident in the work, critical reflection on the work and individual performance.

Assessment components:

Portfolio - Component A (First Sit)
Description: Individual portfolio
Weighting: 30 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO5, MO6, MO7

Presentation - Component A (First Sit)
Description: Pitch presentation
Weighting: 20 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: Yes
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO4, MO7

Final Project - Component A (First Sit)
Description: Final project
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: No

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO5, MO7

Portfolio - Component A (Resit)

Description: Individual negotiated portfolio

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Filmmaking [Sep][FT][Bower][3yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21