

# Film 1510: Documentary Film Production 1

## Salt Lake Community College

### Spring/Fall

Instructor:

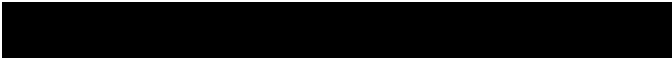
Office Location:

Office Hours:

Telephone:

Email:

Class Meets: Tuesday & Thursday, 11:00-1:00



#### **Course Description:**

FLM1510: Documentary Film Production 1 is an entry-level film production course that provides introductory audio and video recording and post-production techniques for the documentary film production environment. This course also introduces students to a theoretical framework for examining documentary films as cultural artifacts and representations of reality. Recommended FLM1045 or COMM2200

#### **College-Wide Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Acquire substantive knowledge
2. Communicate effectively
3. Develop quantitative literacies
4. Think critically
5. Express creatively
6. Knowledge and skills to be civically engaged
7. Work with others in a professional and constructive manner
8. Develop information literacy
9. Develop computer literacy

#### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students employ basic documentary film production vocabulary and chronicle major historical movements and styles in the documentary film form (SLO 1, 4).

2. Students operate field production cameras to capture planned shots and sequences (SLO 1, 5).
3. Students employ audio recording devices to collect high-quality sound in field-production environments (SLO 1, 7).
4. Students utilize studio and location lighting equipment to craft intentional visual aesthetics (SLO 1, 5).
5. Students analyze story structure and apply creative editing techniques to shape compelling nonfiction narratives (SLO 2, 5).
6. Students appraise ethical issues and apply ethical filmmaking principles in their projects working with interview participants and members of the community (SLO 6, 7).
7. Students synthesize research, planning, shooting, and editing skills to produce complete short documentary films from beginning to end (SLO 1, 2).
8. Students evaluate and critique documentary films using criteria related to style, structure, aesthetics, and ethics (SLO 4, 8).

## **Course Content:**

The learning for this class is divided into the following areas:

- Successful mastering of video production equipment and camera technique is evaluated through repeated review and discussion of footage as compared to original conceptual idea.
- Successful mastering of audio recording equipment is evaluated through repeated review and discussion of footage as compared to original conceptual idea.
- Successful mastering of field lighting equipment is evaluated through repeated review and discussion of footage as compared to original conceptual idea.
- Evaluation of student productions will be based on their ability to use the equipment effectively. Student productions will be graded on their effective editing of video, audio, and graphics creation. Projects will be shown in class and critiqued by the teacher and students, using a rubric with input from professionals in the industry.
- Student productions will be graded on their effective combination of video, audio, and lighting. Projects will be shown in class and critiqued by the teacher and students, using a rubric with input from professionals in the industry.
- Quizzes and in-class exercises will be given to evaluate student competencies. Students create a production log and are graded on adherence to original concept versus final project. Students participate in a peer review.

## **Textbook:**

Aufderheide, P. (2007). *Documentary Film: A very short introduction*. Oxord. ISBN-10: 978-0-19-518270-5

## **Required Supplies:**

Headphones, SD Card, 2TB HD

## **Course Assessments:**

**Observation Assignment:** Students select any location to observe at the micro and macro levels.

**The Interview:** Students conduct an interview with a subject expert in the field.

**B-Roll:** Students record and present footage to support talking head interview footage.

**Audio Documentary:** Students document a simple idea through carefully recorded and edited audio layers.

**Short Documentary:** Students produce and direct a five-minute short documentary film. Select projects are included with the end-of-semester public screening program.

**Pitch Deck:** Students pitch an idea for a documentary film to be produced in class following industry-standard idea pitch best practices.

**Genre Presentation:** Students present research to show understanding of documentary film genre conventions through a formal class presentation.

**Film Analysis Paper:** Students write a three-page analysis of one documentary feature film.

**Public Film Screening:** Students participate in the Film Program end-of-semester public screening event.

**In-Class Exercises:** Students contribute to hands-on film production environment and demonstrate understanding of learned concepts.

**Quizzes:** Students demonstrate an understanding of the facts by reading retention quizzes throughout the semester.

**Midterm:** The cumulative midterm exam measures student information retention and understanding through multiple choice, matching, multiple answer, true/false, and short essay questions.

**Final Exam:** The cumulative final exam measures student information retention and understanding through multiple choice, matching, multiple answer, true/false, and short essay questions.

**Grading Scale:**

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
100-94	93-90	89-86	85-83	82-80	79-76	75-73	72-70	69-66	65-63	62-60	59-50

**Attendance Policy:**

Students are expected to attend all classes in which they are enrolled on a regular and punctual basis. Failure to do so indicates that the student is not serious about their education. If a student must miss class, they are responsible to acquire notes and assignments from canvas and peers. Networking with other students is highly recommended.

Students who are absent for more than approximately 20% of the class periods in a semester, and who do not have a valid, documented excuse, will receive an “E” grade for the course. This class meets twice a week, so if a student were to be absent six times, they would receive an E grade regardless of the work submitted. To avoid this the student must officially withdraw from the class in the time frame outlined by the College.

**General Education Statement**

Your General Education ePortfolio tells your SLCC learning story. Your ePortfolio enables you to introduce yourself to your professors and classmates, showcase your learning, and reflect on how your courses connect to each other, your life, goals, and community. The ePortfolio is intended to help you connect with other students and communicate with professors about how you learn, what you are taking away from your experience, and what supported your learning in their class. Professors can use your ePortfolio to get to know you before class and use your reflections and signature assignments to continuously improve their teaching.

Your General Education ePortfolio will also help you weave together the concepts you learn across all general education courses. To do this, each general education course you take at the college will ask you to demonstrate your engagement with the general education learning outcomes by designing a course-specific ePortfolio page that includes a Signature Assignment and reflection. When you finish your time at SLCC, your ePortfolio should provide a multi-media showcase of your educational experience and tell the story of your learning growth while at SLCC. You can learn more by visiting the [ePortfolio help site](#).

**In order for us to learn from your ePortfolio and provide effective support, we must be able to access your ePortfolio.**

**To ensure access to your ePortfolio, please link your ePortfolio URL to your MySLCC account by following these directions:**

- a. Copy the URL in the web address bar for your *Welcome* page (e.g. “slcc.digication.com/john-smiths-eportfolio”)
- b. Log into [my.slcc.edu](http://my.slcc.edu)
- c. Locate the *ePortfolio* card and click "Submit ePortfolio."
- d. Click Submit on the left side of the page under *General Education ePortfolio*,
- e. Paste the URL for your ePortfolios Welcome page into the blank box underneath *Enter ePortfolio URL*.
- f. Click *Save*.
- g. Finally, confirm that everything worked by clicking on the link and making sure it goes to your Gen Ed ePortfolio Welcome page.

If you would like virtual or in-person help with your ePortfolio please sign up for an ePortfolio appointment [here](#).

## Course Schedule

WEEK 1	Lecture: Course overview Reading: Syllabus, equipment policy Assignment: Skillset Discussion, set up YouTube page Film: Former student work Quiz: Equipment Checkout Policy
WEEK 2	Lecture: Defining Documentary, Visual Anthropology Reading: Aufderheide, Chapter 1, pp. 1-55 Assignment: Observation Assignment Film: Historical and contemporary selections, former student work Quiz 1
WEEK 3	Lecture: Historical perspectives in documentary, Subgenera Reading: Aufderheide, Chapter 2, pp. 56-124 Film: Historical and contemporary selections, former student work Discussion: First Encounters Quiz 2

WEEK 4	Lecture: Documentary film form Reading: Aufderheide, Chapter 3, pp. 125-139 Exercise: Perception and Perspective, visual storytelling Quiz 3
WEEK 5	Lecture: Finding your voice, Gathering B-roll Assignment: Visual Poem - Fire Hydrant 10 Ways
WEEK 6	Lecture: Recording and editing an audio documentary Exercise: Documentary audio Assignment: Documentary Pitch Quiz 4
WEEK 7	Lecture: Interview-style storytelling Film: The Soft Bulletin (2013) Exercise: Documentary interview setup Assignment: Interview subject framing Quiz 5
WEEK 8	Lecture: Editing dialogue and audio sweetening. Exercise: Editing audio Assignment: Audio Documentary
WEEK 9	Midterm Exam Spring/Fall Break
WEEK 10	Lecture: Documentary lighting Exercise: Studio lighting setup Quiz 6
WEEK 11	Lecture: Transcribing. Shot logging. Finding the story. Quiz 7
WEEK 12	Exercise: Work on projects Quiz 8
WEEK 13	Lecture: Promoting the documentary Assignment: Short Documentary Rough Cut Quiz 9
WEEK 14	Exercise: Work on projects Quiz 10
WEEK 15	Exercise: Work on projects Quiz 11
WEEK 16	Lecture: Distributing the documentary Assignment: Short Documentary Film: Short Documentaries Quiz 12
Finals	Final Exam