

Department of English & Writing Studies
Film Studies Program

Film 3374F (001)
Documentary Film
Fall 2023

Prerequisites : At least 60% in Film Studies 1020E or Film Studies 1022 or special permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. ThjnC56 (s)89 (d89 (d89 (d894 TJ EMC ET /Span <</MCID 18 >>BDC BT /CS0 cs 0 scn 0 Tc 0 Tw 1

Lectures

As this is a remote learning course, all lectures/discussions will be live via Zoom. Lectures will be recorded and posted for review purposes to OWL under Zoom Lectures. You will receive a message notifying you that the lecture has been posted. Attendance for the Zoom lectures/discussions is required.

Tutorial Discussions : Live on OWL Zoom (weekly) of timetabled lecture slots.

Course Description

“Non-fiction contains any number of ‘fictive’ elements, moments at which a presumably objective representation of the world encounters the necessity of creative intervention.”
Michael Renov in *Theorizing Documentary*: 2

Historically, the dominant perception of documentary or non-fiction cinemas is that they teach us about the ‘real’ world by documenting truth transparently. However, this course will consider documentary as a form of representation and, as such, trouble its relationship to the ‘objective reality’ it seeks to represent. What is at stake in representing the ‘historical real’? What issues of

Course Materials

Required Readings:

Bill Nichols, Introduction to Documentary 3rd Edition (Indiana UP, 2017) Available from the Bookstore.

[https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2023A&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/FIL3374F)

[search?campus=UWO&term=W2023A&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/FIL3374F](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2023A&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/FIL3374F)

Plus additional readings posted on OWL —see Lessons: OWL PDF Readings

Course Requirements for Success:

- All students will view films and lectures prepared to participate in discussions based on the week's assigned readings and screenings.
- Notes should be taken during or immediately following all screenings.
- Come to class with questions or comments that have arisen from your readings, the lecture and screening.
- Make notes during the lectures, and class discussions, with a view to challenging or developing some of the points expressed.
- Review lecture slides frequently to ensure comprehension of concepts

Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

Participation	10%
Take-Home Mid-term exam due	20%
Two <u>thoughtful</u> discussion questions per week	15%
Essay or Short Documentary Film	25%
Proposal for Short Documentary due on or before	

Total Term	70%
Final Exam	30%

For assignment details, please see 'Course Assignments' below .

Midterm and Final Exam on OWL.

Take-Home Mid- Term Exam :

- The midterm-exam will be posted to OWL on _____ before it is due to be submitted for assessment. You will submit your responses to the mid-term questions via OWL Assignments by _____ on _____

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <https://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>

Attendance

- Please arrive on time to all lectures/tutorials and screenings. Lateness and/or early departures will adversely affect your participation grade.
- Do not miss screenings. Assignments are based on film titles listed in the syllabus. You must view all course titles, including films you have viewed previously.
- Departmental policy provides that students may be refused permission to write the final examination if their level of attendance is unacceptable (more than four unexcused absences per term).

Participation

Participation marks will be awarded for active and informed engagement in tutorial discussions. You are required to post questions and comments on the week's readings and film(s) to the instructor via OWL Messages. Questions must be posted by 17:00 Wednesday .

A provisional list of course screenings in documentary from which 12- 14 titles will be selected:

Actualités and Attractions—Workers Leaving the Lumière Factory (1895), Arrival of a Train, 1895)
(AAVV, c. 1895 – 1910)

F for Fake (Orson Welles, 1973)

In the Land of the Head Hunters (Edward S. Curtis, 1914)

Nanook of the North (Robert Flaherty, 1922)

Trick or Treaty (Canada, Alanis Obomsawin, 2014) 85 min

Man with a Movie Camera ((Tziga Vertov, 1929)

Exit Through the Gift Shop (UK, Banksy, 2010) 87 min.

Song of Ceylon (Basil Wright, 1934)

Triumph of the Will (Leni Riefenstahl, Germany, 1935, 110 min)

Listen to Britain (Humphrey Jennings and Stewart McAllister, 1942)

Night and Fog (Alain Resnais, 1960)

Shoah (Claude Lanzmann, 1985) excerpts

Now (Santiago Álvarez, 1965) 5m

LBJ (Santiago Álvarez, 1968) 18m

Ryan (Chris Landreth, 2004)

Cocalero (Alejandro Landes, 2006)

Fig Trees (John Greyson, 2009)

Gasland (Josh Fox, 2010)

The Act of Killing