Critical Perspectives of Contemporary Film
COMM 6330.D10
Online Instructional Method
https://blackboard.angelo.edu/

Instructor: Professor Mangrum
Office: Library Building, Room B336
Virtual Office Hours: By Appointment M/W 11:30-1:00pm, T/TH 12:30–2:00pm (Blackboard Collaborate)
Phone: 325-486-6084 Email: leah.mangrum@angelo.edu
(allow 24-48 hours for thorough responses to your questions)

There will be required synchronous meetings for this course:
(1/18, 2/1, 2/15, 2/22, 3/1, 3/22, 4/5, 4/18, 5/3)

Required Textbook
Documentary Media: History, Theory, Practice 2nd Edition
Author: Broderick Fox
Available for purchase (new /used) and for rent at the ASU Bookstore
Digital ISBN: 9781315559438
Publisher: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group

Student Learning Outcomes
This course investigates the historical, critical, and theoretical dimension of a specific art, with emphasis on structure and modes of documentary film. Students propose their own documentary film, addressing the ethics of documentary and stylistic approaches to the genre.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:
- Gather, analyze, evaluate and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue.
- Describe a range of subgenres and aesthetic approaches in Documentary.
- Demonstrate pre-production processes of filmmaking.
- Develop, interpret and express ideas through effective written and oral communication.

Methods for Assessing Learning Outcomes

Literature Review (20% of Final Grade)
Students are required to research and write a literature review with references page that will become the basis for their film proposal which will include, in narrative form, a statement of the author’s primary argument(s) in a given article or film; a description, in the students’ own words, of the major concepts central to the authors’ primary arguments, along with the student’s explanation of what those ideas mean in the context of the film or reading segment; and an evaluation of the author’s arguments.

Discussion Facilitation: (20% of Final Grade)
Facilitators are expected to: (1) build and lead an asynchronous discussion on the topic for the week, by presenting specific questions to the class that consider contributions, strengths and weaknesses regarding the topic, and post readings/media for the class to review during the week, and (2) organize a synchronous discussion by summarizing the films of the week, and relating the provided readings or other course materials to the discussion. Students will lead their assigned class discussions during weeks 4 through 15.
Development and delivery of discussion facilitation - One week prior to the online meeting, the discussion facilitator must email Professor planned discussion questions and any supporting materials (readings, videos, files, podcasts, etc.) so the rest of the students can prepare for the following week’s discussion. For example, someone scheduled to lead a discussion on March 9th, must send materials no later than March 2nd. Failure to submit materials for class review 7 days prior to the online meeting will result in a penalty to the facilitators’ grade for this activity.

Film Proposal (20% of Final Grade)
Students write a proposal comprised of an in-depth examination into a documentary film that utilizes the information presented in their literature review. Consider a structure consisting of: a clear statement of the topic/issue; a critical review of relevant literature (noting strengths and limitations of research methodology); a logline, artistic approach, projected timeline, intended audience, production overview; and, recommendations for funding and distribution. APA style, 15-20 typed, double-spaced pages in length.

Proposal Presentation: (20% of Final Grade)
Describes components of proposed documentary film, utilizing technology tools to incorporate audio, video, text and image into a digital exhibition.

Class Participation: (10% of grade)
Includes attendance at synchronous meetings, prompt delivery of materials and meaningful contribution to asynchronous discussions, during meetings and with assignments.

You will be expected to contribute to discussions based on the text, assigned readings, audio/video material and other information sources, as well as your own thoughts.

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<th>Weekly Assessment</th>
<th>Summative Assessment</th>
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<td>25 points</td>
<td>Your activity log in Blackboard shows you logged in regularly.</td>
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<td>Postings on time and responds to 2 other posts in a very insightful and reflective manner.</td>
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<td>15 points</td>
<td>Your activity log in Blackboard shows you logged in fairly regularly.</td>
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<td>Postings on time, however with limited insight or analysis (posted for the sake of having to post).</td>
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<td>5 points</td>
<td>Your activity log in Blackboard shows you logged in at the last minute, that is, mostly on the specified due date.</td>
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<td>Last minute postings. No reflection or critical thinking involved in contributions.</td>
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**Grading Criteria**
You will be evaluated on the following:
1) the level of your engagement with the course materials (as evidenced in written work and discussion)
2) your capacity to explain your ideas and analysis in articulate and well-written forms
3) your ability to creatively explore theories and methodologies

**How final grades will be calculated:**
90-100% A
80-89% B
70-70% C
60-69% D
under 60% F
The Lessons section in Blackboard lists weekly module pages that identify each task to be completed for that week. The weekly folders include links to readings, assignments, discussions and related media.

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<td><strong>Finals Week</strong></td>
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The Course Schedule in the Course Resources section on the left-hand light blue panel in Blackboard, provides an illustration of all due dates in the course. All course activities, excluding the film proposal are due by 11:59pm on date specified - No Exceptions

**Online Etiquette Expectations**
- What you write is public, be mindful of proper tone, mechanics and respect for others' opinions.
- Use humor, joking, or sarcasm with caution.
- Distribute contributions evenly during the discussion period (not concentrated all on one day or at the beginning and/or end of the period).
- Jot down notes as you read; and before you post, think about the discussion question in the context of the readings/videos. Address the discussion questions as much as possible.
- Review your comments carefully for grammar and punctuation before you post. Well-formulated, grammatically correct.

**Code of Student Conduct**
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding Academic Misconduct, which is contained in both the print and web versions of the Student Handbook.

**Student Handbook**
The current student handbook is found at [http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/](http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/)
Disability Services Policy Statement
Request for accommodations may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the essential elements of the academic course and/or the degree being sought. To the extent practical, the faculty and administration will make reasonable accommodations to assist qualified individuals with disabilities meet their degree requirements, consistent with the applicable provisions of Texas statues and the Regents’ RULES AND REGULATIONS. If you wish to have special accommodations made for your studies, please contact the Office of Student Affairs, Room 112, Houston Harte University Center, (325) 942-2047.
URL: http://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/disability-services-policy-statement.php

Grade Appeal Process
As stated in Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.03 Student Grade Grievances), a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see Operating Procedure 10.03 at http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14196-op-1003-grade-grievance.

Student Handbook
The current student handbook is found at http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/

Course Communication:
I am available to answer questions synchronously if needed. To schedule virtual office hours, you will email lmangrum@angelo.edu 24 hours in advance and prepare to use Blackboard Collaborate.