

SYLLABUS

5th SEMESTER

CINEMATIC TECHNOLOGY

Documentary Film Technique

Credits: 2

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1. Basic concepts

Meaning of documentary film, its purpose, Documentary vs. feature film
News reel, early documentary (Robert Flaherty's *Nanook of the North*),
Cinema verite (direct cinema)
Documentary Genres: Observational, Expository, Participatory, and Reflexive;
Poetic-documentary, Docu-drama

2. Elements of Documentary

Story structure, Exposition and interviews, Archival footage, Cutaways and
Voice-Over
Production values, cinematography, editing and sound design
Other elements: Visuals, Facts, Music, Blueprinting, Illustrating or portraying
actual events, places, or people, Entertaining or educating viewers

3. Documentary Techniques

Voice-over, Archival footage, Re-enactment
Direct and Indirect Interviews, Montage
Exposition, Wallpaper Technique, Actuality.

4. Essential Equipment

Video camera, Lenses tripod and camera rigs, Lighting gear, file storage
devices, extra batteries,
Microphone kit, Portable digital audio recorder, Head phones
Computer and video editing software

5. Documentary Dogmas

Make sure you have something to say. Don't make excuses. Know why, and
for whom, you are making the film - think distribution. Shoot on the medium
you can afford. Work with good people - but not too many.

Do not lose your focus - or your sense of humour. Curtail your ambitions - but not your standards. Never regard the documentary as the poor relation of drama or feature film. Care about your subjects - whoever they are.

Take risks - but not hostages. Fight for length - but remember that less is often more. In moments of despair, remember that your film is not a matter of life or death - it is more important
