MAS 312

Advanced Screen Production 1

S1 Day 2015

Dept of Media, Music & Cultural Studies

Contents

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
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Y3A 193H
TBA

Credit points
3

Prerequisites
(6cp at 200 level including MAS213) and (admission to BA-Media or BA-MediaLLB or BA in Media or BMktgMedia)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit provides students with an opportunity to develop their research, creative, conceptual and technical skills in non-fiction digital production as they address the range of aesthetic and rhetorical choices available in representing the 'real'. While non-fiction as a category of screen production may include news, current affairs, reality television and corporate video, the special focus of this unit is documentary and the historical and theoretical context of its production. The unit places particular emphasis on the creative process and its relationship to the development of specific technical capabilities.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Synthesise practical, technical and conceptual skills through the research, development and collaborative realisation of creative non-fiction screen production.

Develop and implement strategic creative and technical pathways towards the production of non-fiction screen works.

Analyse technical and creative strategies through a critical appraisal of a range of non-fiction screen works.

Evaluate critically one's own and other's creative screen works.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Documentary Outline	15%	Week 3 workshop
Workshop Research Presentation	10%	Weekly
Present Production Research	15%	Week 7 Workshop
Short Documentary Production	40%	Week 13 workshp
Crew Role Assessment	10%	Week 13
Workshop Participation	10%	Every week

Documentary Outline

Due: **Week 3 workshop**
Weighting: **15%**

Documentary Outline

Due Date: Week 3 workshop

Weight: 15%

Please deliver your proposal to your assigned workshop.

Any assignment delivered beyond the due date will not be considered for production.

You are asked to write an outline/proposal for a documentary of up to 5 minutes in length. This is a **creative document, not an essay**. Choose an idea from the world around you that you think is achievable and that has the potential for strong sounds and images, interesting characters, story or argument.

The documentary outline needs to be well structured and it should:

- Describe the **idea and themes** that you are hoping to explore any **argument** you may wish to make, or your **perspective** on the themes. What is the potential for an engaging **story**?
- the people **(social actors/characters)** you may be including in the project,
- the **research** you have conducted so far and **further research** you will need to conduct.
- Indicate any **stylistic** ideas you may be considering at this early stage of development,

- describe the **documentary form** or forms you think you project will use - how will you approach the subject?

- Please also discuss the **logistical** challenges offered by the project and how you will meet them. For example, if the documentary is a portrait of someone, what kind of access do you have to this person, where do they live/work? If they live out of Sydney how will you deal with this?

The outline should be approximately 3 pages long and you are encouraged to **include other material** such as photographs, text, archival material or other references that help to describe the idea.

Outlines will be assessed and short-listed for production based on the following criteria:

Originality and strength of central idea

What is the central idea you are exploring? How original, interesting or imaginative is it? Does it offer potential for a short documentary or could it be more easily explored via another medium? Does it have the potential to reveal something fresh about the world we live in? What themes does the idea suggest?

Story/Argument

Potential for engaging story and/or powerful argument about the world around us.

Evidence of preliminary research

Successful documentaries are based on solid research. Research includes the factual, aesthetic and technical. Please reference at least one screen work that is informing your viual style or perhaps works with a similar subject. You must provide evidence that you have researched your idea to the degree that you know it can be made. For example, does your research demonstrate that the idea has depth, have the people you wish to participate in the documentary agreed to do so? **You must also indicate further research you intend to pursue.**

Visual and aural potential

Research also includes considerations about style, approach. How does your idea lend itself to an exploration through sounds and images? Remember that digital video, as a time-based medium, is very different from a written text. Your proposal should demonstrate that your documentary concept contains the potential for an imaginative use of sounds and images.

Awareness of documentary form

What kind of short documentary are you proposing? **Please note** that "current affairs" style projects are not acceptable. Documentary has a long history of conceptually and aesthetically innovative works. It is important that you begin to familiarise yourself with the range of possibilities available to you and consider the relationship between style and content. Consider, for example, if your documentary will be interview based or observational or include reconstruction or be an essay form or a compilation film or be designed/stylised in any particular way or some mix of doco forms?

Feasibility: in terms of facilities, skills base, locations, length

Your idea **must be feasible.** You have only a certain number of days for both your shoot and post-production.

Assessment criteria

- Strength and originality of documentary idea
- Evidence of preliminary research
- Demonstrated visual and aural potential
- Feasibility
- Writing style: clarity, expression, grammar, presentation

Proposals must be submitted by being printed and delivered in person to the lecturer in your workshop session in week 3.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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Workshop Research Presentation

Due: **Weekly**
Weighting: **10%**

Assignment 2

Workshop Research Presentation

Due Date: 2 or 3 per week, weeks 3, 4, 5 & 6

Weight: 10%

Working in pairs, you will give an in-class presentation on a documentary of your choice.
 Structure your presentation well and make sure you cover the following:

- production details: title, makers, year, country, commissioning body or context,
- documentary idea: succinctly describe subject, theme and argument or perspective
- analysis of how it operates: discuss the ways in which it communicates its

    ideas, including form, structure (where does it start and end, what happens in between),

    characters, other content and tone
- the creative and technical strategies evident in the work such as visual and aural style,

rhythm and juxtaposition, and how these may (or may not) contribute towards the film's meaning(s)

Include one film extract which illustrates your points

This presentation will be approximately 10-15 minutes *including the film extract* and will also involve a 5 minute Q&A in the workshop. Powerpoint is the preferred mode of delivery of these presentations. Ideally clips will be embedded in the powerpoint or easily accessible by clicking on links. Each person in the team will deliver part of the presentation and you will be assessed individually.

Assessment criteria

-
     Evidence based critical evaluation of a documentary screen work's form, structure, content and style and communication of theme or ideas.

- Clarity and accuracy of analysis of technical and creative strategies of the non-fiction screen works.

- Effectively prepared and structured presentation responding to task requirements, and ability to lead class discussion

Submission of this task is by oral presentations which will be made in pairs in a workshop session (to be designated a week before it is due).

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Present Production Research

Due: **Week 7 Workshop**
Weighting: **15%**

Working in your production groups, prepare a Production Research Report to present in-class

Production Research Report Presentations will be up to half an hour and will be lead and coordinated by your Research & Development/Design crew member (or Producer on teams of

5), with each member of the crew being responsible for a segment.

Reports must include:

1. The research done into subject, theme and perspective including films watched, pre-interviews done, books & articles read, sites visited, other forms of research & development of idea
    1. Provide a list and then reveal three or four of the top influences on development of your project
    2. Briefly discuss the influence they have had – what you have taken from them as a group, into your project
2. Research into related films
    1. Provide a list of relevant films and choose one or two to focus on in the presentation
    2. each group member should discuss an aspect of the film, relative to their crew role eg. production process, theme and perspective, shooting style, design/visual style design), juxtaposition/structure/rhythm or aural style
3. the specific research you have undertaken in relation to technical or other production aspects of your crew role. For example, if you are DOP have you attended additional camera workshops or practised with the camera outside class? If you are a producer have you researched how to schedule the production? What preparation have you taken as sound recordist or sound designer?

Assessment criteria

·   Demonstrated scope and relevance of creative research into subject, theme and perspective

·   Clarity and accuracy of analysis of technical and creative strategies of relevant film references

·   Demonstrated scope and relevance of technical and/or production research in crew role

·   Demonstrated synthesis of research by group into a coherent creative and technical pathway towards the planned production

Research Reports will be submitted via in-class presentation in crew groups in week 7. Associated websites where materials have been collected by the group can be viewed during the presentations and links may be sent to the lecturer via email after presentations.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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Short Documentary Production

Due: **Week 13 workshp**
Weighting: **40%**

Short Documentary

Due Date: Workshops Week 13

Weight: 40%

In this collaborative assignment each student will participate in a crew role contributing towards the development and production of a short screen documentary of up to 5 minutes duration. Each student collaborating on the production will be expected to undertake adequate creative, technical and organisational preparation to support the performance of their role.

The production parameters for the documentary are:

1. Up to **5 shooting days**

2. Edit plan completed prior to commencement of editing

3. **5 days picture edit** per project

4. **2 days sound edit** per project

5. All crew members are to make themselves available to attend **all** the planned testing and shooting period and to view and comment on edits in workshops and as required.

Assessment criteria:

- Shape, structure and originality of completed project
- Effectiveness of creative choices in composition, shot construction, lighting, sound, design, editing, direction of social actors, narration, production management etc in terms of engagement.

Short Documentary Productions will be submitted via screenings in workshops in week 13 and exports of the production, as coordinated with the technical director for the unit.

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Crew Role Assessment

Due: **Week 13**
Weighting: **10%**

Crew Role, Critical Reflection & Portfolio

Due Date: Week 13

Weight: 10%

 You are assessed on your crew role performance as evidenced in the final production and **supported by the following documentation**:

·   500 word critical reflection discussing at least two major learning challenges you faced in your crew role during the process and how you resolved them. You could address technical and/ or creative issues together with interpersonal skills eg conflict resolution etc. For example how was the collaboration managed in your team? Was everyone up to the technical standard required by the project? If not, how was this resolved?

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- Demonstrated effectiveness of contribution in crew role as evidenced in final production
- Demonstrated commitment in crew role as evidenced by attendance at workshops,production meetings, technical workshops, tests, shoot and post-production and other activities as necessary
- Demonstrated creative and technical preparation for crew role as evidenced in documentation provided
- Capacity to critically reflect on learning experience

Crew Role Assessments must be submitted by final workshop date of week 13, via ilearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Develop and implement strategic creative and technical pathways towards the production of non-fiction screen works.
- Evaluate critically one's own and other's creative screen works.

Workshop Participation

Due: **Every week**
Weighting: **10%**

Active Workshop Participation

Due Date: Every Week

Weight: 10%

Active workshop participation is more than simply being in attendance (which is compulsory). In order to receive high marks for workshop participation, students must be punctual and well-prepared, complete any required in or out of class work including attendance at relevant technical demonstration sessions and production meetings (which will be logged), prepare for workshop presentations, engage actively by asking and answering questions and participating constructively in pair or group work as required. The marks allocated for participation in this unit reflect the importance of student participation in a production course, particularly one such as MAS312 that focuses on communication and the production of a short collaborative digital video work.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- Demonstrated attendance & punctuality at workshops
- Demonstated active engagement in and preparation for workshop processes

On successful completion you will be able to:
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Delivery and Resources

iLearn

The unit schedule is published on iLearn. Additional documentation required during production such as crew role descriptions, location agreements, permissions, insurance details etc will be uploaded during the semester on iLearn.

Technology & Software

This is a screen production unit. Students may be required to work with a range of the department's digital and mechanical technologies and editing software including still and moving image recorders (eg Sony HD FS700 cameras), sound recorders, digital editing software (eg AVID),image stabilising equipment, tripods, dollies, various portable lighting equipment etc

Health and Safety

Students must wear suitable shoes in the screen production studio as a health and safety requirement. This means flat-heeled closed shoes such a runners. Students wearing open toed footware such as sandals or thongs, or high heeled shoes, will not be permitted to work in the studio.

Timetable

For details of the unit timetable please go to: www.timetables.mq.edu.au

Please note that lectures run Monday 10am-12pm until mid semester break; there are no lectures following the mid semester break during production.

Please also note that workshops are three hours in duration until mid semester break and two hours in duration following the mid semester break.

Changes since the last offering of unt

Production proposals are short listed by convenor and/or workshop tutor. Final proposals are selected by workshop participants.

Assessment

All assignments must be attempted in order to be considered for a Pass in this unit.

Extensions for assignments are only granted on the grounds of illness or misadventure and appropriate documentation such as a medical certificate must be presented as part of an application for extension. If you are having problems please speak to your workshop lecturer or the unit convenor as soon as possible. Late delivery of assignments without the agreement of the lecturer may incur a penalty of 2% per day.

Attendance

It is a compulsory requirement to attend all production workshops and lectures.

Any absence from a workshop must be supported by documentation such as a medical certificate and discussed with workshop lecturer.

Failure to attend two or more workshops may result in a Fail.

Unit Readings

Students are expected to undertake independent research into the creative and technical aspects of screen production. Unit readings are available in e-reserve and are intended as a supplement to the core screen production work, as well as enhancing your understanding of theoretical and production concepts discussed during the unit. Although readings will not be assessed from week to week, it is strongly advised that you broaden your understanding of concepts and practices relating to screen production by completing them, as well as independently researching your specific crew role areas of interest as you will be assessed on your knowledge and application of these in unit assignments.

Unit Schedule

Important general schedule notes:

- Lectures run Monday 10am-12pm until mid semester break;
- there are no lectures following the mid semester break during production.
- Workshops are three hours in duration until mid semester break and
- two hours in duration following the mid semester break

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html

Grading Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html

Grade Appeal Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Additional information

MMCCS website: https://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/faculties_and_departments/faculty_of_arts/department_of_media_music_communication_and_cultural_studies/

MMCCS Session Re-mark Application: http://www.mq.edu.au/pubstatic/public/download/?id=167914

Information is correct at the time of publication

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Synthesise practical, technical and conceptual skills through the research, development and collaborative realisation of creative non-fiction screen production.
- Develop and implement strategic creative and technical pathways towards the production of non-fiction screen works.

Assessment tasks

- Documentary Outline
- Short Documentary Production

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Evaluate critically one's own and other's creative screen works.

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Synthesise practical, technical and conceptual skills through the research, development and collaborative realisation of creative non-fiction screen production.
- Develop and implement strategic creative and technical pathways towards the production of non-fiction screen works.
- Analyse technical and creative strategies through a critical appraisal of a range of non-fiction screen works.
- Evaluate critically one's own and other's creative screen works.

Assessment tasks

- Documentary Outline
- Workshop Research Presentation
- Present Production Research
- Short Documentary Production

- Crew Role Assessment
- Workshop Participation

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Synthesise practical, technical and conceptual skills through the research, development and collaborative realisation of creative non-fiction screen production.
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- Analyse technical and creative strategies through a critical appraisal of a range of non-fiction screen works.
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Assessment tasks

- Documentary Outline
- Workshop Research Presentation
- Present Production Research
- Short Documentary Production
- Workshop Participation

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Synthesise practical, technical and conceptual skills through the research, development and collaborative realisation of creative non-fiction screen production.
- Develop and implement strategic creative and technical pathways towards the

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Assessment tasks

- Documentary Outline
- Workshop Research Presentation
- Present Production Research
- Short Documentary Production
- Crew Role Assessment
- Workshop Participation

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Synthesise practical, technical and conceptual skills through the research, development and collaborative realisation of creative non-fiction screen production.
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- Analyse technical and creative strategies through a critical appraisal of a range of non-fiction screen works.
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Assessment tasks

- Documentary Outline
- Workshop Research Presentation
- Present Production Research
- Short Documentary Production
- Crew Role Assessment
- Workshop Participation

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded,

sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Synthesise practical, technical and conceptual skills through the research, development and collaborative realisation of creative non-fiction screen production.

Assessment task

- Documentary Outline