



MAS 312

Advanced Screen Production 1

S1 Day 2017

Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Karen Pearlman

karen.pearlman@mq.edu.au

Contact via karen.pearlman@mq.edu.au

Y3A 193H

by appointment Mondays & Tuesdays 1:15 to 1:45

Credit points

3

Prerequisites

MAS212 and MAS213

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	Hurdle	Due
Documentary Proposal	10%	No	04 March, 2017
Individual Video Essay	20%	No	Week 7 screen in workshop
Production R&D Website	20%	No	30 April
Short Documentary Production	40%	No	Week 13
Workshop Participation	10%	No	scheduled workshops

Documentary Proposal

Due: **04 March, 2017**

Weighting: **10%**

Assessment Task #1: Documentary Proposal

Due Date: 04 March

Weighting: 10 %

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 interesting characters, places, events or issues, strong sounds and images, story or argument.

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

- Describe the **idea**. **Include characters and themes** that you are hoping to explore, any **argument** you may wish to make, or your **perspective** on the themes. Make sure you articulate the project's potential for an engaging **story**.
- tell us more about 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 or your ideas for the **documentary form, tone or approach**
- **logistical** challenges and how you will meet them (eg. access to people, permissions for events or special places, time-sensitive material, special skills needed for approach)

The outline may be up to 3 pages long including your responses to each of the above points (1

to 3 sentences for each point) photographs, quotes, links, archival material, drawings or other media that help to bring the idea to life for a reader.

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

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

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

SUBMISSION: Proposals must be submitted on ilearn by midnight 04 March, 2017

proposals must be named using the following naming convention: SURNAME_WORKSHOP DAY&TIME_PROPOSAL

EARLY SUBMISSIONS ARE ENCOURAGED!

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

On successful completion you will be able to:

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

Individual Video Essay

Due: **Week 7 screen in workshop**

Weighting: **20%**

Assessment Task #2: Video Essay

Due Date: Week 7 Screening in Workshop & link on ilearn

Weighting: 20 %

A 3 to 4 minute (maximum) video essay analysing a documentary production that is relevant in theme, form, approach, visual or aural style to the one you are working on in MAS312. You must coordinate with your team before commencing this assignment to insure that each video essay is on a different documentary, or a clearly distinctive aspect of a highly relevant documentary.

Your video essay may be created using your own technology (eg. phones, laptops) however, editing on AVID is strongly encouraged. If you do not have access to a phone or camera of any sort, some cameras may be available for borrowing for this assignment. Your video must include relevant images and sounds and may not be only a direct to camera speech by you. When you do use direct to camera speaking, demonstrate considered choices in frame and lighting.

Video essays should include:

- factual information on the doco you are analysing, eg. title, makers, year, country, commissioning body or context,
- your summation of the 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 contribute to the production's impact

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 video essay, responding to task requirements

SUBMISSION: of this task is by screening in week 7 workshop, and uploading of a link to ilearn by the same date.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- 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.

Production R&D Website

Due: **30 April**

Weighting: **20%**

Assessment Task #3: Production R&D Site

Due Date: 30 April

Weighting: 20 %

Working in your production groups, prepare a Production Research & Development Website.

1. Research & Development/Design crew member, Producers or Directors set up a production website where each person's reports can be uploaded. Send a link to Karen.Pearlman@mq.edu.au, and Marcus.Eckermann@mq.edu.au by week 5.
2. Each crew member must make two contributions to the site, of 300 words each
 1. One, on a topic selected from List A (below), is a report on research you have done to deepen your understanding of character, place, event, issue or ideas in the doco you are working on
 2. One, on a topic selected from List B (below), is evidence of independent development of skills and knowledge required in your crew role to creatively realise the form and style of the doco you are working on.

Crew member contributions are due by 30th of April, however early submissions may be useful to your collaborative process.

Think of this as a site that can eventually be used to promote your documentary. Use this opportunity to tell the story of your documentary's research and development to the world. Make sure the website has additional tabs available where you will eventually put the final production, synopses, crew bios, award laurels, reviews, etc.

Examples of things you may report on: (at least one from each list per person)

List A: Content & Ideas Research

- screen based information about your subject/storyworld
- pre-interviews
- print based research eg. books & articles
- online research into subject/theme/perspective
- historical context research
- cross-disciplinary perspectives on subject
- doco form investigations
- antecedent productions
- relevant/inspiring other doco makers body of work
- other

List B: Technical and Creative Research

- interview questions written
- recce's done
- test shoots
- test sound recording
- test edits
- mood boards
- style references
- interview practice
- additional workshops
- schedules in preparation
- overview of site
- director's statements
- producer's logline & synopsis
- production meeting summaries
- other!

In addition to 300 word report on activities from List B, include examples of the material generated such as test shoots, edits, questions, recce photos etc. If the task is primarily written (eg production meeting summaries or director's statements, you may substitute the written task itself for any report on it.)

Assessment criteria

- Demonstrated scope and relevance of research & development activities
- Clarity and accuracy of critical analysis/interpretation of research materials
- Demonstrated development of technical or communication skills through production tests, workshops or materials generated
- Strength of contributions to production planning and development of production coherence

SUBMISSION: via link uploaded to ilearn by midnight on 30 April. Each person is individually responsible for clearly **labelling** their own submission **with their names** and uploading it in a timely manner. Producers/R&D producers must make the production website's link available to each person for uploading by week 5 and should remind crew members of the task requirements during production meetings.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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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.

Short Documentary Production

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **40%**

Assessment Task #4: Short Documentary Production

Due Date: week 13

Weighting: 40 %

In this assignment each student will be individually assessed on their crew role contribution towards the development and production of a short screen documentary of up to 5 minutes duration or negotiated duration of series episodes. Each student collaborating on the production will be expected to undertake adequate creative, conceptual, technical and organisational preparation to support the production and 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. All crew members will present a short oral reflection on their process and contributions to production in workshops after the shoot.

Assessment criteria:

- Coherence of perspective, structure, image and sound in completed project
- Clarity and sophistication in conveying characters, ideas or stories
- Effective research and application of research informed techniques or approaches
- Effectiveness of creative choices in composition, shot construction, lighting, sound, design, editing, direction of social actors, narration, production management
- Thoughtful application of collaboration and problem solving strategies

SUBMISSION: 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.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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Workshop Participation

Due: **scheduled workshops**

Weighting: **10%**

Active Workshop Participation

Due Date: ongoing, as per workshops schedule

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, engage actively by asking and answering questions and participating constructively in exercises, meetings and group work as required.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- Demonstration of skills development through execution of roles on workshop exercises
- Relevant, collegial, considered and succinct contributions to discussions and production meetings

SUBMISSION

In weekly workshops throughout the semester. Nb: no workshops in week 1 or in weeks 8 and 9 during the production period

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 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 as runners. Students wearing open toed footwear 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 11 am to 1 pm weeks 1 to 6; 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. There are no workshops in week 1 or in weeks 8 and 9 which are the production period.

All lectures and workshops are held in the Screen Studio: Y3A-189

Assessment

Assessment tasks are aligned to the unit Learning Outcomes. Timely submission of assessment tasks is a unit requirement or penalties apply. 10% per day (including weekends) will be deducted for all late submissions unless Disruption to Studies (including a request for an extension) is approved.

There is no examination for this unit.

Attendance

Students attend a **two-hour lecture in Weeks 1 through 6** and are expected to read and view materials posted by the Convenors/Lecturers at the iLearn page for this course.

Students attend and participate in a **three-hour workshop in weeks 2 through 7, and a two hour workshop in weeks 10 through 12**. You are required to attend all workshops. As participation in the process of learning is linked to and underpins the unit Learning Outcomes, you will need to apply for Disruption to Studies to cover any missed workshops (if the disruption

is greater than three days).

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. 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 schedule notes:

- Lectures run Monday from 11 to 1 in weeks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6 only
- No workshops in week 1
- Lectures are NOT recorded for ilearn as there are too many clips screened and discussed for an echo360 recording to be effective learning.
- Workshops are three hours in duration until mid semester break (weeks 2-7)
- Workshop are two hours in duration after the mid semester break (weeks 10-12)
- There are no workshops in weeks 8 and 9
- Weeks 8 and 9 are the production period

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_2016.html

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

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html

Disruption to Studies Policy (in effect until Dec 4th, 2017): http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html

Special Consideration Policy (in effect from Dec 4th, 2017): <https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration>

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://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources 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 Proposal
- Individual Video Essay
- Production R&D Website
- Short Documentary Production
- Workshop Participation

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 outcomes

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

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

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 tasks

- Documentary Proposal
- Individual Video Essay
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- Short Documentary Production
- Workshop Participation

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.

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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

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

Assessment tasks

- Documentary Proposal
- Individual Video Essay
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- Short Documentary Production
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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.
- 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 Proposal
- Individual Video Essay
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- Short Documentary Production
- 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 tasks

- Documentary Proposal
- Individual Video Essay
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- Workshop Participation

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

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 Proposal
- Individual Video Essay
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