



MMCC3012

Screen Production: Documentary Filmmaking

Session 1, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2020

Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor

Karen Pearlman

karen.pearlman@mq.edu.au

Contact via karen.pearlman@mq.edu.au

10 Hadenfeld Ave (10HA) room 193H

Tuesdays 1 to 2 pm

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

MAS213 or MMCC2013

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

The special focus of this unit is documentary as a mode of screen storytelling. Students encounter different modes and forms of documentary production and analyse the impact of the strategies used to shoot and compose them. Students practice core documentary making skills such as observation, interview, image composition, dramatisations and structuring stories. Through practical work, students address a range of artistic choices available in representing the real. By engaging with the opportunities this unit offers, students can produce work suitable for their professional portfolios and for entry into film festivals.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates>

Learning Outcomes

ULO1: synthesise practical, technical and conceptual skills through the research, development and collaborative realisation of creative non-fiction screen production.

ULO2: develop and implement strategic creative and technical pathways towards the production of non-fiction screen works.

ULO3: analyse technical and creative strategies through a critical appraisal of non-fiction screen works.

ULO4: evaluate critically one's own and other's creative screen works.

General Assessment Information

All assignments of this unit are aligned to the standards outlined in the Macquarie University Assessment Policy (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/assessment>). Marking rubric for each of the assignments is available on the iLearn. Students are expected to read the rubric before working on the assignment.

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply - two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date - and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (including weekends) after the original submission deadline, No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments - eg quizzes, online tests.

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

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Documentary Proposal</u>	10%	No	27 Feb 2020 - 11:55pm
<u>Video Essay</u>	20%	No	05 April 2020 - 11:55pm
<u>Workshop Learning Journal & Production Process Reflection</u>	20%	No	31 May 2020
<u>Documentary Production</u>	50%	No	week 13 submission by appointment with tech director

Documentary Proposal

Assessment Type ¹: Creative work

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **27 Feb 2020 - 11:55pm**

Weighting: **10%**

This task requires each student to create a proposal for a documentary of up to 5 minutes in length. This is a creative document, not an essay.

Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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

Video Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Media presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **05 April 2020 - 11:55pm**

Weighting: **20%**

This task is a video essay analysing a documentary production that is relevant in theme, form, approach, visual or aural style to the one each student is working on in this unit.

Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- analyse technical and creative strategies through a critical appraisal of non-fiction screen works.
- evaluate critically one's own and other's creative screen works.

Workshop Learning Journal & Production Process Reflection

Assessment Type ¹: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 5 hours

Due: **31 May 2020**

Weighting: **20%**

Students are required to reflect on their learning, processes and workshop/production contributions.

Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- analyse technical and creative strategies through a critical appraisal of non-fiction screen works.
- evaluate critically one's own and other's creative screen works.

Documentary Production

Assessment Type ¹: Creative work

Indicative Time on Task ²: 80 hours

Due: **week 13 submission by appointment with tech director**

Weighting: **50%**

This task includes the preparation for each student's crew role together with a responsive and engaged execution of that role for the documentary production.

Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion 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.

¹ If you need guidance or support to understand or complete this type of assessment, please contact the Learning Skills Team

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Readings for this unit will be available on electronically through Leganto (on ilearn)

Technologies/resources required:

Students will be required to use their own computers for development of documentary proposals, and may also use their own cameras (including phones) and computers for the video essay assignments. AVID editing software is preferred for screen productions at MQ and students may download a version for free from AVID here: <https://my.avid.com/get/media-composer-first>. For the Video Essay task students may also access the AVID systems available in the screen culture lab (10HA 149) by negotiation with their convenor or the screen production professional technical staff.

Documentary productions **must** be shot using the provided Macquarie University cameras. Training on the use of these cameras will be provided in workshops, and technical staff may be available for supplementary demonstration of particular features of the cameras by appointment. Bookings for cameras, lights, tripods, etc., must be made by the person performing the role of producer on each team, via email to the unit's technical manager, at least one week in advance of use date.

Documentary productions must be edited on the provided AVID software on site. Technical staff may be available for supplementary demonstrations of particular features of the software by appointment. Bookings for editing suites should be made by the person performing the role of producer on each team, via email to the unit's technical manager, one week in advance of use date.

Unit Schedule

There is only one lecture for MMCC3012, on Monday the 24th of Feb at 10. It is NOT recorded or streamed. The lecture is not optional: it delivers important content. Students who elect to not attend the lecture will miss out on unit content, and do so at their own risk.

Workshops are on Mondays or Tuesdays (depending on the group in which you are enrolled).

There are five x 3-hour workshops. These are in weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. In them you will gain

hands on experience with cameras, lighting, and other gear.

There are four x 2-hour workshops. these are in week 8, 10, 11 and 12. These post production workshops provide hands on experience and work in progress feedback on documentary shooting, editing and/or sound design.

Workshops in this unit are an opportunity for you to further develop skills and apply them to your own practices. In workshops, you will have the opportunity to ask for assistance from your tutor, and work on communication, collaboration and responding to a brief. Not attending workshops will jeopardise your performance in this unit. Your reflective journal will be expected to include thoughts on what you have learned in each workshop and how you will apply it.

The lecture and workshops are primarily held in the screen studio (10HA-189). Closed toe shoes are required for all workshops and all work in the studio.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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](#) or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

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 Enquiry Service

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](#)

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Equity 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.

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.