MMCC3012

Screen Production: Documentary Filmmaking

Session 1, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2021

Department of Media, Communications, Creative Arts, Language and Literature

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Disclaimer

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Notice

As part of Phase 3 of our return to campus plan, most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group activities on campus, and most will keep an online version available to those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face activities for your unit, please go to timetable viewer. To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

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
Mondays 1 to 2pm or 10 to 11am

Technical Manager/Demonstrator
Alex Ryan
alex.ryan@mq.edu.au
Contact via alex.ryan@mq.edu.au
10 Hadenfeld Ave (10HA)
by appointment

Technical Director
Michael Baber
michael.baber@mq.edu.au

tutor
Iqbal Barkat
iqbal.barkat@mq.edu.au

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
130cp at 1000 level or above including 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://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates

Learning Outcomes

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

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.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
iLearn Quizzes & Tasks	15%	No	selected weeks throughout semester
Individually Authored Documentary & Reflection	35%	No	11 April, 11:59 pm
Documentary Production	50%	No	06 June, 11:59pm

iLearn Quizzes & Tasks

Assessment Type [1]: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 15 hours
Due: **selected weeks throughout semester**
Weighting: **15%**

Students will respond to a series of low-stakes iLearn activities such as quizzes, short practical exercises, or critical viewing tasks. Students will be expected to draw on resources informing these tasks for their productions and reflection statements.

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.

Individually Authored Documentary & Reflection

Assessment Type [1]: Creative work
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 35 hours
Due: **11 April, 11:59 pm**
Weighting: **35%**

This assessment is an individually authored creative documentary of between one minute and two minutes long, responding to the brief supplied on ilearn, and reflective writing on processes and influences on the 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.
- evaluate critically one's own and other's creative screen works.

Documentary Production

Assessment Type [1]: Creative work
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 60 hours
Due: **06 June, 11:59pm**
Weighting: **50%**

This task includes the preparation for each student's crew role, a responsive and engaged execution of that role for the documentary production, and thoughtful reflective writing about learning, production processes, and key influences. 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.
- evaluate critically one's own and other's creative screen works.

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[1] If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the Writing Centre for academic skills support.

[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

Completion of the 'Individually Authored Documentary' requires students to use their own phones or cameras to capture images and sound, and their own computers and software to edit, complete, and submit the assignment. Macquarie University can give you access to a complete Adobe Creative Cloud license if your software of choice for editing this assignment is Premiere

Pro. Alternatively you may use the Avid Media Composer software available on campus in the computer labs in 10HA, or you may download Avid First to your own computer and edit and complete your project with Avid. (Nb. Avid Media Composer and Avid First are not easily compatible with each other so do not plan to start and edit your project on Avid First but complete it on Media Composer.) Other editing software (e.g. iMovie) is also acceptable for this assignment, however, we suggest you take the opportunity to use Premiere or Avid, which are commonly used in the screen industries. Tutorials are available through the library for both Premiere and Avid. If you have concerns about the technical specifications of your computer, consult Alex Ryan or Mike Baber.

For the 'Documentary Production' assignment, each student will be assigned a crew role and will be responsible for familiarising themselves with equipment required to fulfill that role to a high pre-professional standard through workshops. Cameras, microphones and, as needed, lights will be provided for the 'Documentary Production' assignment. These will be booked by producers for each production, through the online booking system, after submitting appropriate production plans. The 'Documentary Production' assignment will be edited on Avid Media Composer, in the edit suites on campus in 10HA. Training and support for Avid Media Composer will be provided through a combination of online tutorials, workshops and consultations, by appointment with the technical managers for the unit.

If completing this unit 100% online, the two production assignments, 'Individually Authored Documentary' and 'Documentary Production, both require students to use their own phones or cameras to capture images and sound, and their own computers and software to edit, complete, and submit the assignment. Macquarie University can give you access to a complete Adobe Creative Cloud license if your software of choice for editing this assignment is Premiere Pro. Alternatively you may download Avid First to your own computer and edit and complete your project with Avid. Other editing software (e.g. iMovie) is also acceptable for this assignment, however, we suggest you take the opportunity to use Premiere or Avid, which are commonly used in the screen industries. Tutorials are available through the library for both Premiere and Avid. If you have concerns about the technical specifications of your computer, consult Alex Ryan or Mike Baber.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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

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

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the search tool.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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 help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Getting help with your assignment
- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- Subject and Research Guides
- Ask a Librarian

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

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