MMCC3012

Screen Production: Documentary Filmmaking

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2024

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

Contents

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Convenor, lecturer
Karen Pearlman
karen.pearlman@mq.edu.au
Contact via email
Tuesdays 6pm drop in sessions, all welcome to talk with convenor or peers, room 284, 10HA

lecturer
Sam Allen
samuel.allen@mq.edu.au
Contact via email

technical director (cameras, lights, mics, etc.)
Alex Ryan
support.mccall@mq.edu.au
Contact via use booking system for gear, otherwise email
10HA loading dock
by appointment

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

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day an assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to written reports and recordings only. Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs) will be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Creative Task 1 (minor)	35%	No	10/04/24 11:55 pm
Creative Task 2 (major)	50%	No	29/05/24 11:55pm
iLearn Quizzes & Tasks	15%	No	weekly

Creative Task 1 (minor)

Assessment Type [1]: Creative work
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 35 hours
Due: **10/04/24 11:55 pm**
Weighting: **35%**

Creative Screen Production Task. 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.

Creative Task 2 (major)

Assessment Type [1]: Creative work
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 60 hours
Due: **29/05/24 11:55pm**
Weighting: **50%**

Creative screen production task. This is a creative project incorporating advanced production techniques discussed in the unit. 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.

iLearn Quizzes & Tasks

Assessment Type [1]: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 15 hours
Due: **weekly**
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.

[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

This unit is primarily delivered on campus, in order to facillitate skills development in collaboration and use of professional standard equipment.

For Creative Task 1 students work independently using their phones and laptops.

For Creative Task 2 students work in teams, with each persona perofrming an individually assessable role on a crew and using Macquarie University cameras, lights, sound recording gear and editing software.

Unit Schedule

week 1 is a seminar on documentary forms and creative strategies

weeks 2 and 3 are project development

week 4 to 7 are on campus practicals developing shooting and editing strategies for your producitons

week 8 your first creative task is due on WEDNESDAY

week 8 is the start of the production period which runs through both weeks of the mid semester break and week nine.

By the end of week 9 all groups must have their shoots finished and projects set up for editing.

week 10: first assemblies of Creative Task 2 must be screened in practicals,

week 11: rough cuts must be screened in practicals

week 12: fine cuts with sound design must be screened in practicals

week 13: final submission of Creative Task 2 on Wednesday at 11:55 pm.

Before you finalise your grade and sound you must fimeet, in the edit suite, with Alex Ryan or Tom Benson to ensure that your work meets standards. You may get support for exporting during that meeting. You must ensure that your export settings are for ProRes422HQ as a minimum quality standard, adn you must export to your Exports folder on NEXIS. more details on

ilearn.

Attendance is required at all practical classes.

A *minimum* of 12 hours of your editing time (4 hours per week in weeks 10, 11, and 12) must be on campus working collaborativelly with editor and director in the same edit suite at the same time. More collaborative on campus work is recommended so that you can get approrpiate input on the creative direction of the work from your team as well as input from lecturers or technical staff.

A *minimum* of 4 hours of sound editing time must be on campus working collaborativelly with sound editor and director in the same edit suite at the same time. More collaborative on campus work is recommended so that you can get approrpiate input on the creative direction of the work from your team as well as input from lecturers or technical staff.

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
- Assessment Procedure
- Complaints Resolution 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

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe academic integrity – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free online writing and maths support, academic skills development and wellbeing consultations.

Student Support

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

The Writing Centre

The Writing Centre provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- Workshops
- Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader
- Access StudyWISE
- Upload an assignment to Studiosity
- Complete the 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

Macquarie University offers a range of Student Support Services including:

- IT Support
- Accessibility and disability support with study
- Mental health support
- Safety support to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues
- Student Advocacy provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via AskMQ, or contact Service Connect.

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.

Unit information based on version 2024.02 of the Handbook