I. Locator Information:
Instructor: Dr. Chuck Tryon
Course # and Name: English 232
Office Location: Butler 126
Semester Credit Hours: 3
Office hours: 8-9:30, 11-12:15 T/H
Date and Time Class Meets: T/H
Class location: Butler 361
Office Phone: 672-2223
Email address: ctryon@uncfsu.edu or chutry@msn.com
Total Contact Hours for Class: 3

I. Course Description: This course will introduce students to basic concepts in documentary film and other visual media such as digital video. In particular, we will consider the place of documentary filmmaking in producing social change, questions that are linked to the ethical responsibility filmmakers have to their subjects and to the viewers who watch. In addition, students will engage with questions about the effectiveness of documentary as a technique for making a difference in a community.

II. Disabled Student Services: In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, if you have a disability or think you have a disability to please contact the Center for Personal Development in the Spaulding Building, Room 155 (1st Floor); 910-672-1203.

III. Textbook: The following textbook is available at the university bookstore. It is required. You should also make plans to watch all of the assigned movies in English 232. You might also plan to watch films using subscription services such as Netflix or Snag Films. Students who don’t have access to Netflix may want to make plans to watch with others who do have accounts. In addition to the textbook, we will also be reading essays posted online on Blackboard or on electronic reserves.


IV. Title IX – Sexual Misconduct
Fayetteville State University (University) is committed to fostering a safe campus environment where sexual misconduct — including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking - is unacceptable and is not tolerated. The University encourages students who may have experienced sexual misconduct to speak with someone at the University so that the University can provide the support that is needed and respond appropriately. The Sexual Misconduct policy can be found at the following link: http://www.uncfsu.edu/Documents/Policy/students/SexualMisconduct.pdf

Consulting with a Health Care Professional - A student who wishes to confidentially speak about an incident of sexual misconduct should contact either of the following individuals who are required to maintain confidentiality:
Reporting an Incident of Sexual Misconduct - The University encourages students to report incidents of sexual misconduct. A student who wishes to report sexual misconduct or has questions about University policies and procedures regarding sexual misconduct should contact the following individual:

Ms. Victoria Ratliff  
Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Students  
Spaulding Building, Room 155  
(910) 672-1222  
vratliff@uncfsu.edu

Unlike the Licensed Professional Counselor or the Director of Student Health Services, the Deputy Title IX Coordinator is legally obligated to investigate reports of sexual misconduct, and therefore cannot guarantee confidentiality, but a request for confidentiality will be considered and respected to the extent possible.

Students are also encouraged to report incidents of sexual misconduct to the University’s Police and Public Safety Department at (910) 672-1911.

V. Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
1) Describe principles of documentary ethics, including the responsibility of filmmakers to their subjects
2) Explain basic principles of how film can be used for social change.
3) Analyze a local social issue that could be addressed through documentary film
4) Create a visual text that engages with the local community

Course Requirements and Evaluation Criteria:
Weekly quizzes: 10%
Research Paper: 20%
Group Documentary Project: 25%
Individual Reflection: 10%
Midterm: 15%
Final Exam: 20%

Service Learning:
English 232 is a designated Service Learning course, which means that you will be required to spend a minimum number of hours outside of class working on a Service Learning project. This will include spending several hours working with our community partner, which will be one of the service learning groups affiliated with the FSU campus, but it may also include some of the time used to edit your documentary videos. In order to complete this work, you will be required to document your service learning hours with your contacts and with Melissa Lyon (mllyon01@uncfsu.edu) in the Service Learning office in Bronco Square.
Research paper:
You will write a 1,200-1,500-word paper addressing issues related to documentary ethics. For this paper, you will pick a documentary and discuss whether or not it was produced in an ethical fashion. For example, you could look at how the filmmaker chose to depict marginalized groups or individuals and discuss whether or not they were represented respectfully. Or you could look at a political filmmaker like Michael Moore and consider whether he uses information in a way that you find ethical. What this will entail—in part—is a decision about whether a filmmaker should present both “sides” of an argument equally. You might also consider how much freedom a director should have to stretch the truth about some aspect of a public story. The research paper will also include a required annotated bibliography, in which you identify at least five (5) sources that are pertinent to your argument.

Proposal:
The proposal will ask you to “pitch” a documentary project about the Cumberland County community. In the proposal, you can suggest a topic, a stylistic approach, and a proposed timeline for the project. If you think you can make arrangements with a local organization for a Service Learning Project, you should also specify that in your proposal. The proposal will be evaluated on its organization, its persuasiveness, and its ability to use principles of documentary ethics and aesthetics to allow the audience to visualize your intended project (3-4 pages). This semester we will be working with the campus’s Service Learning Office.

Documentary Project:
Depending on the number of students in the course, the class will be divided into 3-5 documentary “teams” that will be assigned one of the students’ proposals. You will then work together to assign roles for students in the group (director, editor, etc). You should then arrange to produce a short documentary (probably no more than ten minutes) that addresses an issue related to the Cumberland County area. The documentary will be evaluated based on how your visual and editing choices succeed in conveying the subject matter. You should plan to record at least one or two hours of footage, which you will then pare down to a 5-7 minute documentary.

Exams:
Exams will involve two different sections. The first section will entail identifications of key terms that we have discussed in class or encountered in the textbook. The second section will consist of essay questions. Much more detail about the exams will be provided in study guides handed out approximately two weeks before each exam.

Grading Scale
A 90-100 B 80-90 C 70-80 D 60-70 F 59 and under

Academic Honesty:
Because this course involves a significant amount of writing, absolutely every word, phrase, sentence, and paragraph that you submit for credit must be your own work. Because you have all graduated from high school or the equivalent, you obviously understand the difference between your words and the work of others. This means that any student who turns in another writer’s work pretending that it is his or her own will earn an “F” for the entire course. All major writing assignments will be submitted through Turnitin.

Attendance/Film Screenings:
Students in English 232 will benefit from attending class regularly and participating in class discussion. To that end, the University policy on attendance is in effect in this class. Tardiness may, at the instructor’s discretion, be counted as an absence—especially when the late arrival disrupts the
class. Four or more unexcused absences will result in your overall grade for the course being lowered by one letter per absence.

You are responsible for watching the films for English 232. All movies will either be available in the Media Center or online (or both). All movies should also be easily accessible via Netflix, Snag Films, or Hulu.

**Cell phone/behavior policy:**
If your cell “rings,” you are to leave the room quietly to answer it. I do not want them out on a desk or in view at any time. Do not text message in my class. In general, you should behave respectfully towards your peers and towards the instructor in order to contribute to the best possible learning environment for yourself and your classmates. If you have any questions, be sure to consult the university’s guide on recommended student behavior.

**Course Outline and Assignment Schedule**

**Tentative Schedule:**
All reading and writing assignments will be due by the date they are listed. We will also use some class time to allow you to work with your groups on your documentary projects. Please note that ID=Introduction to Documentary, OL=Online, NFX=Netflix, and HU=Hulu. We will start talking about movies on the Thursday of the week they are scheduled. Other short readings may be added during the final weeks of the semester.

**Week 1:**
August 18-20:
- **Film:** In-class screening TBA.
- **Reading:** “How Can We Define Documentary Film?” ID 1-41.

**Week 2:**
August 25-27:
- **Film:** *Hoop Dreams* (1994), dir. Steve James, NFX.
- **Reading:** “Why Are Ethical Issues Central to Documentary Film?” ID 42-67.

**Representatives from Service Learning:** August 25

**Week 3:**
September 1-3:
- **Film:** *Supersize Me* (2005), dir. Morgan Spurlock, Snag.
- **Reading:** Aufderheide, Jaszi, and Chandra, “Honest Truths,” OL.
  - “How to Write a Proposal,” OL.

**Filmmaking teams will be formed by September 1.**

**Week 4:**
September 8-10:
- **Film:** *Bigger, Stronger, Faster* (2008), dir. Chris Bell, Snag/NFX.
- **Reading:** “What Gives Documentary Films a Voice of Their Own?” ID 67-93.

**Group Proposals Due September 10.**

**Week 5:**
September 15-17:
Film: *Blackfish* (2013), dir. Gabriela Cowperthwaite, NFX.
Rachel Clark, “‘Blackfish Effect’ Marks a Major Moral Uprising,” *Psychology Today*, December 20, 2013, OL.

Week 6:
September 22-24:
Film: *Harlan County, USA* (1975), dir. Barbara Kopple, Snag.
Reading: “How Can We Differentiate among Documentaries?” ID 142-71.
Peter Biskind, *Harlan County, USA: The Miners’ Struggle,* Jump Cut 14 (1977), OL.
**Film deadline: All groups must meet their contacts by September 24.**

Week 7:
September 29-October 1:
Film: *The Thin Blue Line* (1988), dir. Errol Morris, NFX.
Reading: “How Can We Differentiate?” ID 172-211.

Week 8:
October 6-8:
Film: *Food Inc.* (2008), dir. Robert Kenner, NFX.

Week 9:
October 13-15:
Film: *Citizen Koch* (2011), dir. Carl Deal and Tia Lessin, NFX.
Reading: Andrew O’Hehir, “Citizen Koch,” Salon, OL.

Week 10:
October 20-22:
Film: *Waste Land* (2010), dir. Lucy Walker, NFX, HU.
Reading: “How Can We Write Effectively about Documentary?” ID 253-72.

Week 11:
October 27-29:
Film: *Cave of Forgotten Dreams* (2010), dir. Werner Herzog, NFX.
Reading: Matt Hanson, “Ecstatic Truth: Werner Herzog’s *The Cave of Forgotten Dreams*,” The Millions, OL.

Week 12:
November 3-5:
Reading: “How Did Documentary Filmmaking Get Started?” ID 120-41.
**Film draft must be submitted for review.**
Week 13:
November 10-12:
   Film: *Man on Wire* (2008), dir. James Marsh, NFX.
   Reading: Roger Ebert, “Man on Wire,” Roger Ebert.com, OL.
   **Film ethics paper due.**

Week 14:
November 17-19:
   Film: *Exit Through the Gift Shop* (2010), dir. Banksy, NFX.
   Reading: Alissa Walker, “Here’s Why the Banksy Movie is a Banksy Prank,” *Fast Company.*
   Melena Ryzick, “New Doubts for a Film that Has Truth Issues,” *New York Times,* OL.

Week 15:
November 24-26:
   Film: *Capturing the Friedmans* (2006), dir. Andrew Jarecki, Snag.
   Reading: TBA
   **Final Draft of Film Due**

Week Sixteen:
December 1-3:
   Film: In-class documentary screenings
   Reading: Final Exam Study Guide

**Final exam during scheduled exam time.**

**Bibliography:**