

**Danish School of Media and Journalism**  
**TV and Media Production**  
**Course description**  
**Fall semester 2021**  
**Documentary Production**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> semester**

**Number of ECTS Credits:** 10 ECTS

**Aims:**

The course will give the students theoretical and practical knowledge of the production of a documentary. Through both film-analysis and practical experience, the students will obtain an understanding of conventions and dramaturgic tools of the documentary genres; from structure and character development, to storytelling mode and visual expression. The students will be able to implement these tools into their work process. Students will train story planning skills from pre- to post-production. Through workshops and hands on instruction in visual planning, shooting, editing, sound work and color-grading, the course will take the students audio-visual storytelling skills to an advanced level.

**Pedagogical and didactic approaches:**

The course combines practical assignments with lectures and supervision. Individual exercises and input through lectures creates a common language and frame of reference for the students. The students then work in groups for the rest of the course, creating a documentary alternating the creative roles of director and cinematographer. Regular supervision sessions and lectures, matching the process of the documentary, continues throughout the course. Feedback groups will guide and learn from each other through self organized sessions throughout the process. The writing and re-writing of the concept secures precision in storytelling and reflection of the creative process. Written individual reflections gives each student the possibility to reflect on their own learning process. Finally all documentaries are screened and the groups receives feedback in class, to create a common completion of the course where students can learn from both their own and each others experiences.

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**Working methods:**

Lectures, workshops, master classes, literature, analyzing of theory and film examples, research, video production, technical supervision, group work and feedback between students.

**Learning outcomes:**

The students will obtain the following during the course:

**Knowledge and understanding:**

- Understand and reflect on the documentary genre and its development through time.
- Know, understand and use expressive modes of the documentary genre.
- Know, understand and use different dramaturgic and storytelling models.

**Skills:**

- Plan, shoot and edit documentary productions with a duration of up to 10 minutes.

**Competences:**

- Understand and work with sound and colour grading in post-production.

- Enter into group processes and give and receive guidance to and from fellow students during a production process in a constructive way.
- Reflect on their own performances and productions, and those of fellow students.

**Literature** (to be purchased before the course begins):

- Bernard, Sheeila Curran (2011). Documentary Storytelling, Creative Nonfiction on Screen. Focal Press, Taylor and Francis Group, Fourth edition or Third edition

**Literature** (hand out):

- Nichols, Bill (2010), Introduction to Documentary. Indiana University Press (Second edition), p. 142-171
- Nichols, Bill (2010), Engaging Cinema. W.W Norton & Company, Inc., p. 106-130

### Attendance:

Attendance for lectures/tuition and participation in teamwork is compulsory.

### Exam/Grading:

The course is assessed as passed / failed, internal examination. In order to pass, the course assignments must be submitted and approved on time, the final assignment must be passed and the student must have been active and fulfilled the requirements for attendance and participation.

### Study Activity Model:

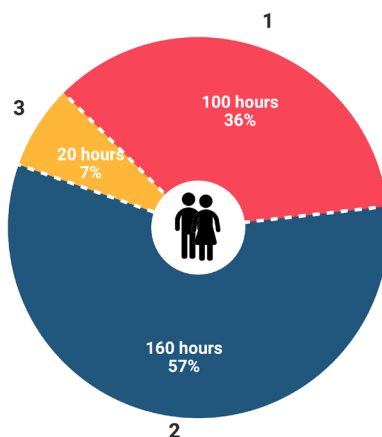
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#### The Study Activity Model

#### Documentary Storytelling

280 hours in total  
10 ECTS points  
6 weeks



#### Category 1

The lecturer has primary responsibility for the study activities, and the students have co-responsibility through their preparation and participation. Participation by students and one or more lecturers.

Obligatory lectures  
Supervision  
Evaluation of final assignment

#### Category 2

The lecturer has primary responsibility for defining the learning activities, and the students have primary responsibility for taking an active part in the planned study activities. Participation by students only.

Obligatory exercises and assignments  
Reading of literature

#### Category 3

Students have primary responsibility for the study activities, and the lecturer has co-responsibility for ensuring appropriate settings for the activities. Participation by students only.

Projects

#### Category 4

Students have primary responsibility for the learning activities, and the lecturer has co-responsibility for ensuring appropriate settings for the activities. Participation by students and one or more lecturers.

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