

Danish School of Media and Journalism
TV and Media Production
Course description
Fall 2016

Feature Journalism

3. Semester

Duration: 3 weeks (5 ECTS, for international students 10 ECTS)

Objective:

The objective of the Feature Journalism course is to take the students knowledge on journalistic and storytelling tools from basic to a more advanced level and to enhance students understanding of the different genres of video journalism.

To secure students understanding of the importance of fact-based reporting, that is of relevance to society, students will be obliged to carry out background research on broader issues before choosing the exact stories they wish to elaborate on in their productions. The use of time lines as a research systematizations tool will be required and the video-production is to be supplemented with a written background article presenting the core findings of the research.

By working with a longer video format (up to 7 minutes) with several characters, the students will be training their ability to control the structure of a story and to go deeper into a narrative without losing the focus.

Tools

The following tools will be used in the tuition:

Research time lines; video examples; literature on documentary genre and mode; dramaturgic and story telling models; basic models for the written feature; tools for definition/identification of characters; practical work with camera, sound and editing.

Methods

The following methods will be used:

Lectures by tutor; master classes with external documentary film maker; group discussions; exercises; analyses of video examples; team work; assignments in the field of background research and video production; mutual guidance and feed back between students.

Learning goals

Knowledge.

Students should know about:

- Analyzing and understanding the significance of thorough background research.
- Understanding and reflecting on journalistic genres, their definitions and expressions.
- Knowing and understanding different dramaturgic and storytelling models.
- Understanding the differences and connections between story telling in images and words and how the two work together.
- Reflecting on their own performances and productions, and those of fellow students.

Skills

Student should be able to:

- Gather background knowledge on a specific issue and use it in finding the focus of video productions.
- Produce video and written productions that are differentiated in their modes of expression.
- Handle the dramaturgic structure of a video production with duration up to 7 minutes, portraying at least one strong main character and one supporting character.

Expertices

Students should be able to:

- Use knowledge on a given issue gathered via background research for a deductive choice of topics for video and written productions.
- Plan and command a production process of differentiated media productions.
- Enter into group processes.
- Give and receive guidance to and from fellow students during a production process.
- Give and receive feed-back to and from fellow students and tutors in a competent and respectful way.

Literature:

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

Steensen, Steen: "Back to the feature: online journalism as innovation, transformation and practice." PhD diss., University of Oslo (2010), p. 131 – 145.

Nichols, Bill: "Introduction to Documentary", Indiana University Press. Second edition (2010), p. 142-171

Duty to attend:

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

Assessment:

The course is graded pass/fail. To pass the course, assignments should be delivered within deadline, and accepted as fulfilling the demands, as well as the student is expected to participate in an active way during the course.

The course must be passed, in order to participate in the semester exam.

