

## JMSC – Documentary Video Production

May 2013

Journalism & Media Studies Centre

The University of Hong Kong



### **COURSE OUTLINE**

The outline below lists topics to be covered and films or parts of films to be studied. The lecturer reserves the right to change the syllabus and schedule depending on availability of time, films, and proficiency level of attending students.

(this schedule is subject to change depending on student progress in learning)

#### **Session 1: May 6 (Monday)**

**Introduction:** What does it take to do a good documentary? Where do good stories come from?

**Exploring documentary styles and production approaches.**

**Films to watch (excerpts):**

Don't Look Back

First Person Plural

Trailblazers in Habits

**Assignment:** Production assignment 1 on two documentary shooting styles:

- one observational style sequence
- one interactive-participatory sequence

**Reading:** *Bills Nichols, "Introduction to Documentary" Chapter 1, 2 and 6*

#### **Session 2: May 9 (Thursday)**

**Review and critique of production assignment 1**

**Documentary research: content research and conceptualizing the appropriate treatment and style.**

**Students will give short presentation of a documentary film idea.**

**Films to watch (excerpts):**

MoCA core portraits

Delamu

The Emperor's Garden

**Reading:** *Sheila Curran Bernard, Documentary Storytelling for Video and Filmmakers, Chapter 8, 9, 18*

#### **Session 3: May 13 (Monday) RESEARCH PERIOD BEGINS**

**Interview technique for documentary films**

**Documentary film ethics**

**Structural analysis of a documentary film**

**Students propose documentary film ideas, critique**

**Films to watch:** China's Lost Girls

Who Killed Vincent Chin

**Reading:** *Barry Hampe, Making Documentary Films and Videos, Chapters 12 - 15*

#### **Session 4: May 16 (Thursday) PRODUCTION PERIOD BEGINS**

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**Sound design in documentary video.**

**Use of different microphones.**

**Students present final proposal, students vote and setup production team. Discuss production plan: crew duties, schedule, equipment and approach.**

*Reading: Rosenthal, Alan. Writing, directing, and producing documentary films and videos. Chapter 4 - 10.*

### **Session 5: May 20 (Monday) EDITING PERIOD BEGINS:**

**Review raw footage**

**Process of editing and structuring**

**Editing stage I: transcription and logging of material**

**Assembling material into sequences**

**Selection of interviews**

*Reading: Barry Hampe, Making Documentary Films and Videos, Chapters 24 - 29*

### **Session 6: May 23 (Thursday)**

**Review rough assembly and critique**

**Editing stage II: storyboarding and structure of fine cut**

*Reading: Barry Hampe, Making Documentary Films and Videos, Chapter 30 - 32*

### **Session 7: May 27 (Monday)**

**Review rough cut and critique**

**Editing stage III: building arcs and transitions, music and sound effects**

### **Session 8 May 30 (Thursday)**

**Editing stage IV: color correct and sound mix**

**SCREENING OF PROJECTS: TO BE DETERMINED**