INSTRUCTOR: Irene Gustafson  
ireneg@ucsc.edu [email is best way to reach me]  831.459 1498   Communications 125
OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday 9:30-10:30am and by appointment

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course examines the “documentary” through a series of questions: What defines this genre or mode? And who defines it? What “truths” can documentary claim? How and when can these claims be made? In addressing these questions this course considers the documentary film or video in relation to a wide variety of contexts—historical, political, and aesthetic. Course materials will cover the documentary ‘canon’—a set of historically important films and established discourses, and examine documentary’s recent resurgence as a popular mode of entertainment and as a mechanism of discourse.

Our class time together will typically include:
➔ Two weekly screenings, lectures, and on occasion, small group discussion.
➔ Each class period will begin with a lecture that contextualizes the week’s screenings and readings.
➔ We’ll take 10 minutes after each screening to reflect and write notes individually about the film. As this course does not include a separately scheduled discussion section, this is an opportunity for you to: voice your thoughts, ask questions, and demonstrate your engagement with course materials. This does not preclude note-taking during screenings. In fact, you are strongly encouraged to take notes during films.

REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIVING CREDIT

➔ Attendance is mandatory; punctuality is required. Four unexcused absences, excessive lateness, and/or excessive absences at screenings will result in a NO PASS
➔ You are expected to inform the Instructor of any emergency situations that require your absence from class
➔ You are responsible for accessing and reading the required course materials before each class meeting
➔ Late papers/assignments WILL affect your grade
➔ In order to receive credit for the class, students must turn in all assignments
➔ Grade Breakdown:
  ✔ Attendance + Participation 10%
  ✔ Screening Response/Reading Summary 10%
  ✔ Assignment #1 (due TH Oct 15) 30%
  ✔ Assignment #2 (due TH Nov 12) 40%
  ✔ Final Exam (due Wed Dec 9) 10%

READING

➔ REQUIRED:
  Bill Nichols, Introduction to Documentary (Indiana University Press, 2001) Available at the Baytree Bookstore
  Articles available from course website as PDF files.
  http://arts.ucsc.edu/faculty/Gustafson/film%20161.F09.syllabus.html
## Schedule

### 1 Thursday September 24
Introduction and Admissions  
Methodologies and Approaches  
**Screening:** *March of the Penguins* [France, 2005, Luc Jacquet, 80 min.] DVD3131

### 2 Tuesday September 29
**Screening:** *Nanook of the North* [France, 1922, Robert Flaherty, 79 min.] DVD1666

**Reading due:**  
- Bill Nichols, “Introduction” textbook

### Thursday October 1
**Screening:** excerpts from *Nanook of the North* and *March of the Penguins*

**Reading due:**  
- Bill Nichols, “Chapter 1: Why Are Ethical Issues Central to Documentary Filmmaking?”  

### 3 Tuesday October 6
**Screening:** *À propos de Nice* [France, 1929, Jean Vigo, 22 min.] DVD6296  
*Lost Book Found* [USA, 1996, Jem Cohen, 37 min.] DVD3954

**Reading due:**  

### Thursday October 8
**Screening:** *The River* [USA, 1937, Pare Lorentz, 31 min.] DVD4803  
*Land Without Bread* [Spain, 1932, Buñuel, 43 min.] VT7253

**Reading due:**  
4 Tuesday October 13
Screening: Triumph of the Will [Germany, 1934, Leni Riefenstahl, 120 min.] DVD328
Reading due: • Bill Nichols, “Chapter 4: What are Documentaries About?,” “Chapter 5: How Did Documentary Filmmaking Get Started?,” and “Chapter 8: How Can We Write Effectively About Documentary?”

Thursday October 15
✓ ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS
Screening: EXCERPTS from Triumph of the Will and The River
Reading due: no reading due

5 Tuesday October 20
Screening: Titicutt Follies [USA, 1967, Frederick Wiseman, 84 min.] DVD6633
Reading due: • Bill Nichols, “Chapter 6: What Types of Documentaries Are There?”

Thursday October 22
Screening: Harlan County, U.S.A [USA, 1977, Barbara Kopple, 104 min.] DVD 3658
Reading due: • Bill Nichols, “Chapter 7: How Have Documentaries Addressed Social and Political Issues?”

6 Tuesday October 27
Screening: Capturing the Friedmans [USA, 2004, Andrew Jarecki, 108 min.] DVD3659
• Barry Keith Grant, “Ethnography in the First Person” in Documenting the Documentary, ed. Grant and Sloniowski [Detroit: Wayne State University, 1998]

Thursday October 29
Screening: Halving the Bones [USA, Ruth Ozeki Lounsbury, 72 min.] VT5615
Tuesday November 3
Screening: Reassemblage [USA, 1982, Trinh T. Minh-ha, 40 min.] VT9479

Thursday November 5
Screening: The Maelstrom: A Family Chronicle (Peter Forgacs, 1998, 58 min.)
Reading due: • Portuges, “Home Movies, Found Images, and ‘Amateur Film’ as Witness to History”

Tuesday November 10
Screening: Borat - Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan [USA, 2006, Larry Charles, 84 min.] DVD6603
Reading due: • Leshu Torchin, “Cultural Learnings of Borat Make for Benefit Glorious Study of Documentary” Film & History, Volume 38:1 [2007]

Thursday November 12
✓ ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS
Screening: excerpts from Borat
Reading due: no reading due

Tuesday November 17
Screening: The Gleaners and I [France, 2000, Agnes Varda, 107 min] DVD1755
Reading due: • s.d. chrostowska, “vis - a-vis the glaneuse” ANGELAKI journal of the theoretical humanities, 12:2, August, 119-133
• Paul Arthur, “Essay Questions” Film Comment 39:1 [Jan/Feb 2003]

Thursday November 19
Screening: Black Is, Black Aint [USA, Marlon Riggs, 88 min.] VT3058
Reading due: • E. Patrick Johnson, “The Pot is Brewing: Marlon Riggs’ Black Is... Black Ain’t” from Appropriating Blackness [Durham: Duke University Press, 2003]
10 Tuesday November 24
Screening: Grizzly Man (France, 2005, Werner Herzog, 103 min.) DVD6604
Reading due: • Steve Baker, “Is It Real or is it Disney?: unraveling the animal system” in Picturing the Beast: Animals, Identity, and Representation [Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1993]

Thursday November 26
NO CLASS– THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

11 Tuesday December 1
Screening: Standard Operating Procedure [USA, 2008, Errol Morris, 116 min.] DVD6628

Thursday December 3
Wrap up, Final Exam discussion

✓ FINAL EXAM DUE WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9TH, by 12 noon
2 options for turning in:
1. under my office door
2. via email—as pdf file only. I will not accept any other file format.
   No late final exams accepted

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

A note on academic integrity, plagiarism, and intellectual work:

At the university we are continually engaged with other people’s ideas: we read them in books, hear them in lecture, discuss them with our friends, engage with them on a personal level, and incorporate them into our own writing. As a result, it is very easy to blur the lines between our own intellectual work and the work of others. But, it is important that we give credit where it is due. Plagiarism is using others’ ideas and words without clearly acknowledging the source of that information.

To avoid plagiarism, you must give credit whenever you use
• another person’s idea, opinion, or theory;
• any facts, statistics, graphs, drawings—any pieces of information—that are not common knowledge;
• quotations of another person’s actual written words and/or spoken words; or
• paraphrase of another person’s spoken or written words.

The UCSC “Official University Policy on Academic Integrity for Undergraduate Students” can be found at: http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/undergraduate_students/
LAPTOP / MOBILE TECHNOLOGY USE

Laptops can be a useful tool in the service of teaching and learning, however, I ask that you use them productively and respectfully.

A few common sense rules:

1. Always set up your laptop computer before the beginning of class. Setting up the computer and booting it up can take a few minutes depending on what applications are set to open at startup. Turn off all other mobile devices before lecture begins

2. Disable sound

3. During lecture and classroom discussion, you should not be connected to network resources. To do so invites many distractions - web surfing, email, chats, etc. Chatting or emailing during class is no more acceptable than talking on a cell phone during class time. Additionally, your networked screens are distracting to those sitting near and behind you

If you are found to be doing anything other than note-taking (or sanctioned network activity) you will be asked to leave the class immediately and will be marked as absent for that day.

I reserve the right to further legislate laptop use in their classes. For example, you may be asked to close your computer during screenings or be asked to sit in the first two rows of the class if you are actively using your laptop.