

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Documentary Theory
Status: Definitive
Code: **6502FDM** (118338)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2011

Owning School/Faculty: Liverpool Screen School
Teaching School/Faculty: Liverpool Screen School

Team	Leader
Ross Dawson	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ6
Credit Value: 24.00
Total Delivered Hours: 64.00

Total Learning Hours: 240
Private Study: 176

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	48.000
Online	4.000
Seminar	8.000
Tutorial	4.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Presentation	AS1	A minimum of eight seminars. Researching and discussing the issues raised in the weekly lectures. A minimum word count of 250 words, plus illustrations per seminar.	30.0	
Essay	AS2	A written piece that includes the theory material from lectures and elements of the documentary production sessions. 1600 words.	70.0	

Aims

To explore the development of the documentary in the context of television history and institutions

To critically analyse distinctions between fictional and non-fictional broadcast forms in terms of documentary and drama-documentary

To critically discuss current debates around ethics and responsibility

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 analyse the relevance of distinctions between factual and fictional forms.
- 2 understand and evaluate the codes and conventions of documentary.
- 3 engage with and apply theoretical approaches and critical analysis to the reception, interpretation and production of meaning from documentary texts.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Eight seminars	1	2
Essay	2	3

Outline Syllabus

Documentary formats are analysed from a historical perspective, and studied in terms of their developing conventions based on audience expectations, actuality and reconstructions. The issues of ethics and responsibilities, observation and structure, and the aesthetics of editing, are analysed in detail. Scheduling, popularity and entertainment issues are scrutinised and applied to documentary, docu-soap and docu-drama.

Learning Activities

Lectures, screenings, seminars, seminar discussion, tutorial, private study and activities

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Saunders, D.
Publishing Year	2010
Title	Documentary

Subtitle	
Edition	First
Publisher	Routledge
ISBN	0415473101

Course Material	Book
Author	Austin, T and De Jong, W.
Publishing Year	2010
Title	Rethinking Documentary
Subtitle	New perspectives and practices
Edition	First
Publisher	Open University press
ISBN	9780571225149

Course Material	Book
Author	Bruzzi, Stella
Publishing Year	2006
Title	Beginning Film Studies
Subtitle	
Edition	Second
Publisher	Routledge
ISBN	978041538524

Notes

This module is designed to provide students with an understanding of documentary theories, which will be applied to the practice module. Students are encouraged to attend screenings off-site to enhance their learning. Informal and formal seminars provide formative assessment to support student learning and also overall progress.