



<b>Unit Title</b>	<b>Documentary narratives</b>
<b>FHEQ Level</b>	Level 5 / Term 1
<b>Unit Code</b>	DTP18204
<b>Credit Value</b>	15
<b>Unit Type</b>	Subject

Learning Hours			
Staff – Student Contact Hours		Independent Study Hours	
Classes	37.5	Independent Study	30
Supervised access to resources	0	Preparation for Assessment	20.5
		Unsupervised Access to Resources	62
<b>Total</b>			<b>150</b>

### Unit Description

The **Documentary Narratives** unit examines the fundamentals of documentary forms and also explores the broader range of factual output such as journalism, current affairs, factual entertainment, reality television, fact based drama and docudrama.

The nature of working in documentary and factual television genres will be explored, including how content is developed, researched, produced, directed, scripted, edited and disseminated. Different approaches to filming, whether it is working with crews or self-shooting and editing. There will be emphasis on editorial, ethical and social impact issues.

Workshops will develop the practical and personal skills suited to a range of documentary and factual filming situations on location, with an emphasis on shooting for the edit. You will explore approaches to observational filming, constructed sequences, using voiceover, simple and complex interview techniques. You will enhance skills in working as a crew, camera operating, sound recording and lighting and gain confidence multi-skilled approaches to production.

You will produce a portfolio of practical project work for assessment.

The Five Principles underpin the Mindsets and Skillsets Manifesto and are the foundation upon which all course curriculum frameworks and unit specifications are based. The relevant Principles as stated below have been mapped against the Learning Outcomes relevant to each course unit and at each level (see Programme Specifications for full description of the Five Principles):

1. Cultivate / Where the individual thrives.
2. Collaborate / Where disciplines evolve.
3. Integrate / Where education engages industry.
4. Advocate / Where purpose meets practice.
5. Originate / creativity meets technology.

### Unit Indicative Content

The unit will involve lectures in:

- Documentary types and forms and TV factual formats
- Documentary techniques: fly-on-the-wall, docudrama, fixed rig and reality television.
- UK documentary producers and programme makers.
- Legal, ethical and editorial issues, informed consent and public interest.
- Clearances, rights and permissions.
- Dealing with contributors

Workshops:

- Training on journalist techniques, shooting interviews, lighting, sound recording.
- Use of concealed, hand-held, fixed-rig and Steadicam.
- Self-shooting and working as a crew
- Training on journalist and interview techniques
- Working with public, experts, presenters and vulnerable contributors
- Health and safety and risk assessments for challenging situations
- Location based techniques for camera, sound and lighting
- Post Production processes for documentary/ factual TV.

### Unit Aims

Research, develop and produce a documentary programme

Consolidate and expand knowledge of documentary narratives and formats.

Develop a knowledge of the documentary makers and production companies working with the UK and international media.

Further operational and production skillset through training in a range of documentary and factual techniques

### Unit Learning Outcomes

**LO1 Research/Inspiration** - Analyse and interpret information gathering techniques using a wide range of sources, providing visual, contextual and industry case-study research as appropriate.

**LO3 Development/Prototyping** - Analyse a range of potential pathways that result in appropriate solutions, informed by an understanding of the principles of the creative process.

**LO4 (Pre) Production** - Employ relevant knowledge of production skills alongside a grasp of the creative potential of a selection of processes, materials and methods that inform creative and academic practice.

**LO5 Presentation /Storytelling for Influence** - Select and employ effective methods of presentation and communication of projects in considering the audience/client and the purpose of the work, whether in visual, oral or written form.

## Learning and Teaching Methods

This unit will be delivered using a combination of:

- Briefings
- Lectures
- Project work
- Seminars
- Workshops
- Group work
- Online activity
- Individual Presentations and critiques
- Group presentations and critiques
- Self-directed independent study
- Peer learning, group discussion, guest speakers

## Assessment methods and tasks

*Brief description of assessment methods*

Assessment tasks	Weighting (%)
Portfolio of Production Work	75%
Individual report (1500 words)	25%

## Indicative Assessment Criteria

1. Evidence of analysis of programme research and documentary form applied in the final concept. (LO1)
2. Creativity of the ideas and solutions in response to the brief. (LO3)
3. Level of professionalism in terms of depth, quality and finish of the programme. (LO4)
4. Success of narrative storytelling within the finished piece (LO5)

## Essential Reading list

1. Barker, Alan, (2013), Improve Your Communication Skills (Creating Success) Third Edition, Kogan Page.
2. BBC. BBC Academy. Self-Shooting [Podcast]  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/academy/production/article/art20130702112136090>  
[Accessed 22/03/18]
3. BBC. BBC Academy. Countryfile: Presenters on directing [Article/Internet] Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/academy/en/articles/art20130702112135379>  
[Accessed 22/03/18]
4. Curran Bernard, Sheila (2016) Documentary Storytelling. Routledge; 4 edition
5. Kochberg, Searle (2002) Introduction to Documentary Production: A Guide for Media Students. Wallflower Press
6. Lees, Nicola (2010) Greenlit: Developing Factual/Reality TV Ideas from Concept to Pitch (Professional Media Practice). Methuen Drama; 1st edition
7. Quinn, James (2012) This Much is True: 14 Directors on Documentary Filmmaking (Professional Media Practice). A&C Black Academic and Professional; UK ed. Edition