

Fall 2020

Meeting days: Tuesdays	Instructor title and name: Professor Sarah Witmer, M.A.
Meeting times: 6-9 p.m.	Phone: N/A
Meeting location: Canvas	E-mail: switmer@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: Tuesday, December 1st	Office location and hours: Email to set up by appointment.

PLNU Mission
To Teach - To Shape - To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

We will screen all or part of over 16 documentaries in this course. They are, for the most part, considered to be "classic" films. And the film selections are primarily based upon their artistry (for their time) and the influence they have had in the film-making industry. We will analyze these films as vivid artifacts of film history and American cultural history. Their contents reveal the social and political cultures of their day, along with the art and science of these films. The goal: that you can have a more detailed and enriched appreciation of narrative storytelling and documentary--as both a consumer and prospective producer, writer, director, etc., of films.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RESOURCES

Hampe, B. (2007). *Making Documentary Films and Videos: A Practical Guide to Planning, Filming, and Editing Documentaries*. 2nd ed.

Youtube: Every student will be required to establish their own Youtube channel. This can be private or public. The channel is where you will upload your weekly narrative assignments, as well as the location to which you will upload your final project: Your very own short documentary.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a result of this course, the student will display an understanding of, and/or be able to do the following:

1. Identify formative moments in the history and evolution of film technology in narrative & documentary films;
2. Identify the history of filmmaking eras (star and studio systems, etc.), the emergence of genres, the evolution of film content, marketing, and distribution, and an understanding of where the filmmaking industry is headed;
3. Identify aesthetic techniques of film, including: writing, cinematography, directing, production design, acting, sound, and editing;

4. Identify how particular fictional and non-fictional films have displayed the conventions, have advanced the techniques, and exhibited trends in the motion picture industry;
5. Identify prominent filmmakers' (producers, directors, actors, etc.) styles and their particular contribution to the art and business of filmmaking;
6. Display an appreciation for--and understanding of--the relevance of film as both an art form and social phenomenon; and
7. Begin to demonstrate an ability to formulate a critical Christian response to film as both art and social phenomenon--based on biblical principles.

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3 Unit class delivered over 16 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

COURSE PROCEDURE

You are expected to be familiar with all material in Canvas, including this syllabus and class schedule.

ASSESSMENT & GRADING

Grade Scale (% to Letter):

93-100	A	73-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	0-59	F

A: Indicates exceptional work that reflects **deep thinking, superb creativity, individual incentive** and an **extremely high level of intellectual attainment.**

B: Indicates very good work that reflects a thorough understanding of theory and practice.

C: Indicates work that reflects a satisfactory completion of the assignment as directed.

D: Indicates work that, although passing, reflects a lack of understanding of theory and/or fails to fulfill the assigned task.

F: Indicates work that reflects an inability or unwillingness to do the assigned tasks.

ASSIGNMENT VALUES:

Assignment	Points	Your Grade (follow along!)
Personal Narrative Video Assignments (14 @5 pts. each)	70	
Quizzes (32 at 5 pts. each)	160	
Documentary Reviews (14 @5 pts. each)	70	
Documentary Group Discussions (14 @5 pts. each)	70	
Final Documentary Upload & Peer Reviews	100	

GRADE CONCERNS:

If you feel that you were unjustly evaluated on any assignment, please talk with me within one (1) week after the assignment has been returned. An appeal is welcome by scheduling an appointment via email. Please come with a well-reasoned and written explanation of why the grade should be changed, and I will be happy to discuss it with you. Asking for an appeal and defending your case does not secure, nor imply a change of grade. If at any point during the course you are concerned with your overall class grade or other issues in the course, please feel free to make an appointment or stop by my office. I want to help you learn and succeed in this course.

EXPLANATION OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

See Canvas for details, examples and links.

Quizzes:

Description: Online quizzes will cover the reading material that is to be covered by the following class session. Quizzes will be posted to Canvas and are due before class. Quizzes cannot be re-taken or made up if missed. If there are any University excused reasons for missing any specific assigned quiz, the professor should be notified before the quiz is due.

Requirements: Students must take the quiz on Canvas well in advance to its due time, in case of any Internet or website glitches. The student is responsible for taking the quiz with plenty of time to contact the Library Helpdesk in case of any issues.

Style Standard: Non-Applicable.

Personal Narrative Videos:

Description: Each week, I will give you a “challenge” to complete before the next class. This assignment will require you to film (and sometimes edit) in response to my challenge, and to upload the video to your YouTube channel.

Requirements:

- Must upload video **before class on Wednesday** in order to receive points. No exceptions.
- Must meet the unique requirements given weekly during the video lecture

Style Standard: You can film these on your phone, computer, or any camera you have. They will be uploaded to YouTube well in advance of class time to allow extra time for technical difficulties.

Documentary Reviews:

Description: Each week, you will be assigned one documentary to watch & analyze.

Requirements: Students must actually watch the film and give their personal opinion on the narrative structure, film making aspects, and overall story. DO NOT FIND REVIEWS ONLINE. I am scanning these weekly & searching your responses to make sure they are unique to you. I don't want a professional's opinion. I want yours.

Style Standard: Non-Applicable.

Documentary Review Discussions:

Description: Each week, you will post to the Canvas Discussion Board. This post will be in response to the video lecture, and often requires you to answer additional questions about the documentary due that week. You will then respond to each student in your assigned group.

Requirements:

- Post their response to the video lecture prompt by 7pm
- Post a thoughtful comment on each “response” given by the students in your assigned groups

Style Standard: Non-Applicable.

Final Documentary:

Description: This is your chance to put what we have learned this semester into practice!

Requirements:

- 5-10 minutes
- Uploaded to Canvas before the final date & time

Style Standard: More Details to come.

COURSE CALENDAR: COM 3000 SECTION 1 FALL 2020

Date	Discussion/ Activity	To Do Today	Assigned for Later
8/18/20 WEEK #1	Class Video Introduction	Watch Video	<u>Order book</u> Create class Youtube channel Narrative Video Assignment #1 Doc. Review #1 Online Quizzes
8/25/20 WEEK #2	Due before class: Narrative Video & Quizzes & Documentary Review During Class: Ch. 1 & 2 Video Lecture AND Post in Group Discussion & Respond before 9pm	Narrative Video due before class. Quizzes due before class. Watch video lecture: Ch. 1 & 2 and respond to prompt in discussion groups	Narrative Video Assignment #2 Online Quizzes Doc. Review #2
9/1/20 WEEK #3	Due before class: Narrative Video & Quizzes & Documentary Review During Class: Ch. 3 & 4 lecture & notes AND Post in Group Discussion & Respond before 9pm	Quizzes due before class. Watch video lecture: Ch. 5 and respond to prompt in discussion groups	Narrative Video Assignment #3 Online Quizzes Doc. Review #3
9/8/20 WEEK #4	Due before class: Narrative Video & Quizzes & Documentary Review During Class: Ch. 5 & 6 lecture & notes AND Post in Group Discussion & Respond before 9pm	Quizzes due before class. Watch video lecture: Ch. 5 & 6 and respond to prompt in discussion groups	Narrative Video Assignment #4 Online Quizzes Doc. Review #4

9/15/20 WEEK #5	Due before class: Narrative Video & Quizzes & Documentary Review During Class: Ch. 7 & 8 & 9 lecture & notes AND Post in Group Discussion & Respond before 9pm	Quizzes due before class. Watch video lecture: Ch. 7 & 8 & 9 and respond to prompt in discussion groups	Narrative Video Assignment #5 Online Quizzes Doc. Review #5
9/22/20 WEEK #6	Due before class: Narrative Video & Quizzes & Documentary Review During Class: Ch. 10 & 11 lecture & notes AND Post in Group Discussion & Respond before 9pm	Quizzes due before class. Watch video lecture: Ch. 10 & 11 and respond to prompt in discussion groups	Narrative Video Assignment #6 Online Quizzes Doc. Review #6
9/29/20 WEEK #7	Due before class: Narrative Video & Quizzes & Documentary Review During Class: Ch. 12 & 13 lecture & notes AND Post in Group Discussion & Respond before 9pm	Quizzes due before class. Watch video lecture: Ch. 12 & 13 respond to prompt	Narrative Video Assignment #7 Online Quizzes Doc. Review #7
10/6/20 WEEK #8	Due before class: Narrative Video & Quizzes & Documentary Review During Class: Ch. 14 & 15 lecture & notes AND Post in Group Discussion & Respond before 9pm	Quizzes due before class. Watch video lecture: Ch. 14 & 15 and respond to prompt in discussion groups	Narrative Video Assignment #8 Online Quizzes Doc. Review #8
10/13/20 WEEK #9	Due before class: Narrative Video & Quizzes & Documentary Review During Class: Ch. 16 & 17 lecture & notes AND Post in Group Discussion & Respond before 9pm	Quizzes due before class. Watch video lecture: Ch. 16 & 17 and respond to prompt in discussion groups	Narrative Video Assignment #9 Online Quizzes Doc. Review #9
10/20/20 WEEK #10	Due before class: Narrative Video & Quizzes & Documentary Review During Class: Ch. 18 & 19 & 20 lecture & notes AND Post in Group Discussion & Respond before 9pm	Quizzes due before class. Watch video lecture: Ch. 18 & 19 & 20 and respond to prompt in discussion groups	Narrative Video Assignment #10 Online Quizzes Doc. Review #10
10/27/20 WEEK #11	Due before class: Narrative Video & Quizzes & Documentary Review	Quizzes due before class. Watch video lecture: Ch. 21 & 22 and respond to	Narrative Video Assignment #11 Online Quizzes Doc. Review #11

	During Class: Ch. 21 & 22 lecture & notes AND Post in Group Discussion & Respond before 9pm	prompt in discussion groups	
11/3/20 WEEK #12	Due before class: Narrative Video & Quizzes & Documentary Review During Class: Ch. 23 & 24 lecture & notes AND Post in Group Discussion & Respond before 9pm	Quizzes due before class. Watch video lecture: Ch. 23 & 24 and respond to prompt in discussion groups	Narrative Video Assignment #12 Online Quizzes Doc. Review #12
11/10/20 WEEK #13	Due before class: Narrative Video & Quizzes & Documentary Review During Class: Ch. 25 & 26 lecture & notes AND Post in Group Discussion & Respond before 9pm	Quizzes due before class. Watch video lecture: Ch. 25 & 26 and respond to prompt in discussion groups	Narrative Video Assignment #13 Online Quizzes Doc. Review #13
11/17/20 WEEK #14	Due before class: Narrative Video & Quizzes & Documentary Review During Class: Ch. 27 & 28 & 29 lecture & notes AND Post in Group Discussion & Respond before 9pm	Quizzes due before class. Watch video lecture: Ch. 27 & 28 & 29 and respond to prompt in discussion groups	Narrative Video Assignment #14 Online Quizzes Doc. Review #14
11/24/20 WEEK #15	Due before class: Narrative Video & Quizzes & Documentary Review During Class: Ch. 30 & 31 & 32 Documentary Rough Cut Due	Quizzes due before class. Watch video lecture: Ch. 30 & 31 & 32 and respond to prompt in discussion groups	FINAL DOC.
12/1/20 WEEK #16	<u>PERFORMANCE FINAL:</u> FINAL DOCUMENTARY UPLOAD & GROUP FEEDBACK	Upload doc. Watch & give constructive feedback to each group member	



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