



MCOM 6320 - Documentary Scriptwriting

FALL 2017, Section 1, 3 Credits

WHEN

August 23rd, 2017- December 7th, 2017
Tuesday, 5:00 pm - 7:50 pm

WHERE

THE WOODLANDS CENTER 00304

INSTRUCTOR

Wojciech Lorenc

email: wxl009@shsu.edu, Office: CB128

Office Hours: MW 10 AM – 11 AM, MW 12:30 PM - 2PM, F 11AM - 2PM ...or by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

This course takes a creative and systematic approach to transforming ideas into effective scripts for corporate, medical, religious, educational and governmental videos. Students learn and apply techniques for communicating visually, writing for the ear, using drama and humor, and applying documentary genre structures in various disciplines and for media platforms.

Credit 3. Prerequisite: MCOM 5330.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

You are required to have an EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE (formatted for Apple Computers) with at least 500GB of memory and preferably with a USB 3.0 connection. You must bring your hard drive to all classes, no exception! Sharing hard drives or saving your assignments in the school computers or server is not allowed. It is highly recommended that you backup your project files on a separate flash drive after quitting each edit session to avoid the loss of your edited work in case your hard drive crashes.

ATTENDANCE

Your participation is important. You are allowed THREE unexcused absences. Every absence after that will cause you to lose 5 points of your Attendance grade. Please remember that excused absence does not mean that you are not responsible for submitting the assignments.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

All written assignments must be typed and handed in during class AND emailed to your instructor. All video assignments are to be uploaded to YouTube (unlisted) and the url is to be emailed to the instructor. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED IN THIS COURSE. If you can't make it to class, it is your responsibility to email the assignment to the instructor. Please keep track of your own progress in the class. Keep all of your handed back assignments.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

CLASSROOM ENVIROMENTS

Active and constructive participation in class discussions is required. However, both listening and speaking are involved in successful participation, and this requires sensitivity to the ideas and methods of participation of others in the class.

This is a workshop environment, and all ideas, thoughts and critiques are welcomed. You are beginning, and a workshop environment will allow and encourage you to take risks, to try out new ideas.

PROPER CLASSROOM DEMEANOR / RULES OF CONDUCT

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking with each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with University policy.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help

you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy #861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made two weeks in advance of when the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examination are to be completed.

SHSU Required Policies:

Please visit <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

3 Pitches	30 Points
Treatment	30 Points
Writing Assignment #1	20 Points
Writing Assignment #2	20 Points
Writing Assignment #3	20 Points
Writing Assignment #4	20 Points
Footage #1	20 Points
Footage #2	20 Points
Footage #3	20 Points
Rough Cut	100 Points
Final Cut	150 Points
Film Freeway Page	50 Points
total:	500 points

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

A	450 – 500
B	400 – 449
C	350 – 399
D	300 – 349
F	0 – 299

WEEK 1	IN CLASS	ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK
	Intros, documentary types / modes	3 ideas (pitches)
WEEK 2	IN CLASS	ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK
	Brainstorming ideas.	Treatment due next week
WEEK 3	IN CLASS	ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK
	Shooting Strategies: - b-roll and spontaneous interviews.	Start shooting your documentary.
WEEK 4	IN CLASS	ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK
	Shooting Strategies - Sit down interviews.	Writing Assignment #1 due next week.
WEEK 5	IN CLASS	ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK
	Story Discussion / Critique #1	10 minutes of footage due next week.
WEEK 6	IN CLASS	ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK
	Footage Critique #1	Writing Assignment #2 due next week
WEEK 7	IN CLASS	ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK
	Story Discussion / Critique #2	10 minutes of footage due next week.
WEEK 8	IN CLASS	ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK
	Footage Critique #2	Writing Assignment #3 due next week.
WEEK 9	IN CLASS	ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK
	Story Discussion / Critique #3	10 minutes of footage due next week.
WEEK 10	IN CLASS	ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK
	Footage Critique #3	Writing Assignment #4 due next week

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

WEEK 11	IN CLASS	ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK
	Story Discussion / Critique #4	Rough Cut
WEEK 12	IN CLASS	ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK
	Rough Cut Critique	Revised Rough Cut
WEEK 13	IN CLASS	ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK
	Individual Meetings	Final Cut
WEEK 14	IN CLASS	ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK
	Final Cut Critique	
WEEK 15	IN CLASS	ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK
	Film Festival Strategies	Film Freeway Page
WEEK 16	FINALS WEEK	
	Screenings / Presentations	