



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Film Studies

Syllabus

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 11 September 2013, and is valid from the Spring semester of 2014 at Karlstad University.

Course Code: FVGADF

DOC.MOB!: Theory and Practice of Documentary Film, 30.0 ECTS Credits

(DOK.MOB!: Dokumentärfilm i teori och praktik, 30.0 Swedish credit points)

Degree Level: Bachelor

Progressive Specialisation: G1N (First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements)

Language of Instruction

English and/or Swedish.

Prerequisites

General admission requirements and upper secondary school level English B or 6, or equivalent (field-specific eligibility A2 or 2, excluding second language step 3)

Major Field of Study

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- demonstrate basic understanding of the history of the documentary film as well as the central theoretical issues in the field
- perform qualified analysis of individual works of documentary films
- place the documentary film in a wider aesthetic, political, and rhetorical context
- demonstrate the basic practical skills required for making a documentary film, including planning, executing and editing.

Content and Form of Instruction

The theoretical part of the course has a focus on analysis of individual works and their historical and theoretical context. The analyses are performed in groups as well as individually and the results are presented both orally and in writing. The modules are founded on seminal texts in contemporary research on documentary film. The chosen films span the entire film history and represent many countries. The practical module is structured around workshops resulting in the planning and production of a finished film.

The course consists of the following modules:

Module 1: The history of the documentary film and central theoretical issues, 7.5 ECTS cr

Module 2: Film analysis and close readings of documentary films, 7.5 ECTS cr

Module 3: Practical film production workshop, 15 ECTS cr

The modules include lectures, film screenings, workshops and seminars in combination with oral and written

individual and group assignments. Modules 1 and 2 run consecutively and parallel to module 3.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on individual take-home exams (modules 1 and 2) and on group workshop performance and film production (module 3).

Grades

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G) or Fail, (U) is awarded in the examination. The grade of Distinction is awarded to students who have earned this grade for at least 16 of the 30 course credits. The requirements for a Pass grade are that the assignments have been completed according to instructions and time plan and that the learning outcomes have been achieved. Written assignments must be linguistically and grammatically correct.

For a grade of Distinction students must in addition demonstrate the ability to reflect independently on course literature and assignments and demonstrate learning outcome fulfillment in an excellent way as well as independence and innovation in the film project.

Quality Assurance

The course is evaluated and compared according to the stipulated goal of the course, both during and after the course is completed. The principal aim of this is to find ways to improve the course. Experiences and opinions from the students are gathered by ways of a written evaluation of the course. Student representatives then collect the evaluations, summarize and analyze them, and make an oral presentation of these at the Departmental evaluation meeting. The student will be notified of possible changes to the course.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional Information

Students who enrolled before 1 July 2007 will complete their studies in accordance with the requirements of the earlier admission. Upon completion students may request degree and course certificates to be issued under the current ordinance if they meet its requirements.

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor's and Master's levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

The course may involve expenses for travelling to Molkom's Folkhögskola.

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