

Unit of curriculum: Documentary Skills III – 2022 - 2024

DOC NOMADS EMMC		
<b>Curricular Unit:</b> Documentary Skills III	<b>Duration:</b> 3 semesters	
<b>Semester's Name:</b> The Professional Field	<b>Semester:</b> 3rd	
<b>Contact hours:</b> 75	<b>Individual working hours:</b> 75	<b>ECTS:</b> 6
<b>Type:</b> Theory & Practice	<b>Graded by:</b> Permanent Evaluation and Assignment	
<b>Lecturer:</b> Frederik Nicolai		
<b>Teachers involved:</b> Several guest speakers will be invited, but the entire course is supervised and graded by the lecturer.		
<p><b>Syllabus of the semester:</b> Curricular unit contents</p> <p>Students acquire, through lectures, workshops and interactive masterclasses profound knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development: how can you prepare your project both on creative as production level and turn it into a success. Good practices through master classes.</li> <li>- Writing for documentary: How to write your project? An in-depth view on the art of storytelling and the praxis of writing a documentary</li> <li>- Defining Documentary genres, each their characteristics, targets and audiences</li> <li>- Creating awareness on international documentary industry and market</li> <li>- How to present your project? Production files and all other kinds of written presentations</li> <li>- Defining your personal identity as a film maker.</li> <li>- How to pitch your project?</li> <li>- Basic knowledge of budgeting; Planning &amp; production</li> <li>- Legal questions/issues about documentary (release forms, author's rights, contracts, ownership, legal issues with characters and related film makers responsibility) Related to these legal issues, a group discussion on deontology in documentary film making will be held: We try to engage a clear personal opinion and consciousness on the effects the intervention of the filmmaker on people's lives have, and what boundaries the filmmakers create for themselves.</li> <li>- Impact producing: How to reach your audience, engage stakeholders and key partners to you project and to create social and mental change with your project?</li> <li>- Distribution: what is the current state of distribution of creative documentaries and what are the new challenges and opportunities.</li> </ul>		

**Teaching methodologies and assessment:**

Planned learning activities, teaching methods and assessment methods and criteria

Lectures and master classes with group discussions. Seminar screenings, pitching's and practical exercises.

The lecturer will coordinate the curricular unit, give lectures (approximately 40 hours) and combine them with master classes (approximately 30 hours, preferably spread over 4-5 sessions) by several documentary film professionals.

Students are assessed through 2 written exercises that will be given and evaluated:

- Paper on the national audio-visual landscape of the student
- A personal filmography/biography exercise

**Main bibliography and films:**

Recommended or required reading/seeing

Films related to the course:

- Être et Avoir (Nicolas Phillibert)
- An Episode in the Life of an Iron Picker (Danis Tanovic)
- Borderline (Frederik Nicolai & 6 filmmakers)
- Two Work (Annabel Verbeke & DN Alumni)
- Love is Potatoes (Aliona van der Horst)
- Boos (Frederike Migom) and/or similar Children Documentary
- Something better to come (Hannah Pollack)
- Many fragments and excerpts of internationally renewed films.

Final choice of films and examples will be subject to changes in subjects, discussion evolutions and actual circumstances, final choice of guest speakers,....

**Objective of the curricular unit:**

Objectives. Knowledge, abilities and skills to be acquired

To provide to students with further knowledge and practice of the production of documentary films and their individual position in the documentary world. These skills are acquired in preparation of the Master's Degree Project (semester 4) but also useful in the future career of the students.

Important remark: In case of force Majeure of cause of COVID-19, physical lectures could be changed into distance learning. The physical location of the lecture and/or film screening may also be adapted according to the actual safety circumstances.

DocNomads  
Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Documentary Film Directing  
**ECTS FILE**