

COURSE OUTLINE

FILM-214

The Art of the Documentary

3 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

This course explores the history of documentary film by considering major directors, aesthetics, and social contexts. The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with a history of the development of documentary film from its roots in 19th-century art forms to its role in current events, to examine various styles and techniques of documentary and to analyze the contribution of the documentary as a persuasive means of communication to achieve social and political goals. (3 hours weekly)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

1. Develop a general knowledge of the history of documentary film from the Lumière Brothers to the present.
2. Identify classic themes in documentary movies.
3. Discuss the themes of realism developed by the Soviets and its legacy in today's documentary tradition.
4. Analyze the close connection between history, culture, and cinema in documentary film.
5. Distinguish different cinematic styles and genres created throughout history from WWII through the present.
6. Discuss the styles of the most important and influential documentary directors.
7. Compare and contrast documentary works from various decades and place them in their cultural setting.

Major Topics

- I. Lumière Brothers: First Films
- II. 1920s-1930s
- III. 1940s-1950s
- IV. 1960s-1970s
- V. 1980s-1990s
- VI. Contemporary documentary film

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member, but may include a researched essay, oral presentation, and regular exams.

Other Course Information

This course is an Arts and Sciences, Fine Arts and Humanities Elective.