

**N468  
Video For Social Change  
Spring 2020**

Media Arts and Science / Department of Human-Centered Computing  
Indiana University School of Informatics and Computing, Indianapolis

Section: 26185  
Credits: 3  
Time: Monday 6-8:40 PM  
Location: IT 270, Informatics & Communications Technology Complex  
535 West Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202  
First Class: January 13, 2020  
Instructor: C. Thomas Lewis, MFA (Film)  
Office: IT 473  
535 West Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202  
Hours: Tuesday, 1:00-3:00, or by Appointment  
  
Phone: (317) 278-3799 (Office)  
Email: lewisct@iupui.edu

Prereqs: N253, N353 (N354 Recommended)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students explore theories of documentary filmmaking by screening and writing analyses of seminal documentaries. They also create a documentary about a cause or controversy, or work with a nonprofit client to develop material and produce a finished video.

EXTENDED COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will have two primary components: It will explore various theories of documentary filmmaking including screenings of several important documentaries, and students will either work with outside non-profits to create video materials for their cause or make a documentary about a cause or current controversy. Students will be required to produce finished videos for their assigned client and a short analyses of a documentary film.

Required Texts:

Title: Introduction to Documentary, 3rd Edition  
Author: Bill Nichols  
ISBN: 9780253026859  
Publisher: Indiana University Press

Available at campus bookstore and

[https://www.amazon.com/Introduction-Documentary-Third-Bill-Nichols/dp/0253026857/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?keywords=intro+to+documentary+3rd+edition+Nichols&qid=1578751471&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Introduction-Documentary-Third-Bill-Nichols/dp/0253026857/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=intro+to+documentary+3rd+edition+Nichols&qid=1578751471&sr=8-1)

**Teaching and Learning Methods:**

- Readings and discussions of documentary theory
- Screenings of several feature documentaries
- Writing assignments applying theory to films screened in class
- Screenings of prior VFSC student films
- Creating videos
- Demonstrations of various tools for documentary filmmaking
- Demonstrations of production and post-production workflow practices
- Critiques of student work at various milestones

**Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course, students will	RBT*	PLO	IUPUI+‡	Assessment
1. apply methods of effective storytelling in the planning and execution of documentary films.	2,3,6	1,2	<b>P3.1 Innovator- Investigates</b> <b>4.2 Community Contributor- Respectfully Engages Own and Other Cultures</b>	The organization, logic, and intelligibility evident in both pre-production and in final films
2. be proficient with the tools and technology of film production.	3	6	<b>P3.2 Innovator- Creates/Designs</b>	The artistry and quality of production values evident in the students' final films
3. apply concepts of visual literacy as they pertain to relating information.	2,3	7,9	<b>P1.1 Communicator- Evaluates Information</b> <b>P1.2 Communicator- Listens Actively</b>	The awareness of and sensitivity to the ethical considerations of representation as evident in their films and in discussions of the readings
5. Synthesize documentary theory and express in writing.	4,5		<b>P1.4 Communicator:</b>	Writing skills apparent in Research Paper using theory in

			Conveys Ideas Effectively	class text and literature review. And writing in Logbook Assignments
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\* Revised Bloom's Taxonomy: 1. Remembering, 2. Understanding, 3. Applying, 4. Analyzing, 5. Evaluating, 6. Creating

† Program-Level Learning Outcomes.

‡ Profiles of Learning for Undergraduate Success (IUPUI+)

Visit <http://soic.iupui.edu/undergraduate/degrees/media-arts/learning-outcomes/> to learn more about the Program-Level Learning Outcomes and <https://academicaffairs.iupui.edu/Strategic-Initiatives/IUPUI-Plus> to learn more about IUPUI Profiles of Learning for Undergraduate Success.

#### Teaching Objectives:

- To teach creative methods of documentary video.
- To provide an opportunity for students to work with outside non-profits in the creation of video materials.
- To thoroughly experience the requirements of pre-production, production and post-production as put into practice making documentary/corporate videos.
- To give advanced experience of the tools involved in video production: cameras, lights, grip equipment, microphones and editing & presentation software.
- To give exposure to the theories and discourse surrounding documentary filmmaking.
- To give exposure to key documentary films
- To give a foundational understanding of the history of documentary film.

#### Core Technical Competencies:

- How to work with organizations to assess their video needs.
- How to successfully plan and fulfill the video needs of a client.
- How to create a documentary that addresses a cause or controversy
- How to record production audio
- How to work with tapeless video acquisition
- How to operate the tools involved in video production: lights, grip equipment, microphones and monitors.
- How to think and write about documentary theory.

#### Software used:

Davinci Resolve, Adobe After Effects

Class supplies:

- External USB-C/[USB 3.0](#) or Thunderbolt Hard Drive 4TB recommended
- Headphones (for editing in lab)

Tentative Schedule

Week	Class Content	Due
<b>Week 1</b> 1/13/20	Class Expectations Doc Subjects Screening Previous Work <i>Downwind Downstream</i>	Buy a Hard Drive
<b>MLK Jr Day</b>		
<b>Week 2</b> 1/27/20	Screening <i>Escape Fire</i> Discussion	Readings: Chapters 10 & 1
<b>Week 3</b> 2/3/20	<b>Presentation of Topics</b>	<b>Logbook 1 Due</b> <b>Research Topics Due</b>
<b>Week 4</b> 2/10/20	Screening <i>Fahrenheit 11/9</i> Discussion	<b>Logbook 2 Due</b> Readings: Chapter 2
<b>Week 5</b> 2/17/20	Screening <i>A Cambodian Spring</i> Discussion <b>Pre-Production Concludes</b> <b>Production Start</b>	<b>Logbook 3 Due</b> Readings: Chapter 3
<b>Week 6</b> 2/24/20	Updates Screening <i>Land Grab</i> Discussion	<b>Logbook 4 Due</b> Readings: Chapter 4
<b>Week 7</b> 3/2/20	Screening <i>The Times of Harvey Milk</i> Discussion	<b>Logbook 5 Due</b> Readings: Chapter 5
<b>Week 8</b> 3/9/20	Screening <i>The Cove</i> Discussion	<b>Logbook 6 Due</b> Readings: Chapter 6
<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
<b>Week 9</b> 3/23/20	Student Footage Screening <i>Where to Invade Next</i> Discussion	<b>Logbook 7 Due</b> Readings: Chapters 9
<b>Week 10</b> 3/30/20	Student Footage Screening	<b>Logbook 8 Due</b> Readings: Chapter 7

	<i>The Lonely Battle of Thomas Reid</i> Discussion Production Concludes Post-Production Starts	
Week 11 4/6/20	Screening Rough Cuts	Logbook 9 Due Readings: Chapter 8 Rough Cuts Due
Week 12 4/13/20	Screening TBD or Screening Rough Cuts Discussion Picture Locked	Logbook 10 Due
Week 13 4/20/20	Screening TBD Discussion Final Exam Finishing	Logbook 11 Due
Week 14 4/27/20	Screening <i>Wasteland</i> Discussion Finishing	Logbook 12 Due Paper Due
Week 15 5/04/20	Final Critique	Final Logbook Bundle Due Final Docs Due

## EXPECTATIONS, GUIDELINES, AND POLICIES

### Attendance:

As with all classes, attendance is taken. Genuine reasons like medical concerns will be taken into consideration with proper doctor certification. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of the class and possibly at the end. Canvas is used for attendance and is graded like an assignment. Canvas calculates absences at 0% and tardies at 80%.

1-15 minutes late is a tardy, after 15 min it is considered an absence.

Leaving 15 minutes (or less) early is an early departure, considered the same as tardy.

Leaving more than 15 minutes early is an absence.

Any student arriving late/leaving early consistently without a valid reason will be docked a letter grade off their final grade. Every 4 instances of tardiness or early departure will be considered an absence that will count toward failure. If you miss a class, it becomes your responsibility to get any notes from a classmate. Do not ask me.

Missing class reduces your grade through the following grade reduction policy: You are allowed two excused or unexcused absences. A third absence, unless excused, results in a 15% reduction in your final course grade. More than three unexcused absences will result in an F in the course. Missing class may also reduce your grade by eliminating opportunities for class participation. For all absences, the student is responsible for all covered materials and assignments.

Only the following are acceptable excuses for absences: death in the immediate family (mother, father, spouse, child, or sibling), hospitalization or serious illness; jury duty; court ordered summons; religious holiday; university/school coordinated athletic or scholastic activities; an unanticipated event that would cause attendance to result in substantial hardship to one's self or immediate family. Absences must be explained with the submission of appropriate documentation to the satisfaction of the instructor, who will decide whether missed work may be made up. Absences that do not satisfy the above criteria are considered unexcused. To protect your privacy, doctor's excuses should exclude the nature of the condition and focus instead on how the condition impacts your attendance and academic performance.

Incomplete:

The instructor may assign an Incomplete (I) grade only if at least 75% of the required coursework has been completed at passing quality and holding you to previously established time limits would result in unjust hardship to you. All unfinished work must be completed by the date set by the instructor. Left unchanged, an Incomplete automatically becomes an F after one year. <http://registrar.iupui.edu/incomp.html>

Deliverables:

You are responsible for completing each deliverable (e.g., assignment, quiz) by its deadline and submitting it by the specified method. Deadlines are outlined in the syllabus or in supplementary documents accessible through Canvas.

Films are due at the due date set in Canvas. Late assignments will be reduced 10%. An additional 10% will be deducted for each 24-hour period after the deadline.

**Should you miss a class, you are still responsible for completing any deliverables due that day and for finding out what was covered in class, including any new or modified deliverables.**

Exams/quizzes:

- There could be quizzes, surprise and otherwise.

- Quizzes will happen at the beginning of class. There will be no extensions for lateness and no make-ups for absences.
- There will be no grade change unless there is a proof of mathematical miscalculation.

#### Class Assignments:

Assignments include short analyses of the films screened in class, milestones regarding the creation of the client videos, and peer reviews of each production.

#### Participation:

All students are expected to participate by answering questions, **asking questions and actively discussing films and projects**. Students are expected to participate in the film shoots, and to vary the capacity in which they work. Your active participation is crucial for class morale. See further information about class participation under Grading Information.

#### Grading Information:

The breakdown of your final grade is as follows:

50% Major Assignments

30% Film Analysis Paper and other non-video assignments

10% Final Essay Exam

10% Attendance / Participation

Fifty percent will be based on the grades received for the major assignments of the semester, which includes the any milestones. Thirty percent of your grade will be based on other non-video assignments. Class participation and attendance is worth 10% and the final exam grade make up the balance, 10%. Class participation refers to the frequency AND quality of your contributions as seen in your presentation of ideas, your contribution to discussions, your enthusiasm to participate with the hands-on aspects of production. (As well as the points discussed in the section above.)

**In order to determine the level and quality of work outside of class, everyone is required to maintain and submit a logbook of the effort and time they have dedicated to the videos produced in this course.** Each entry needs to be about half a page long and relate what you and your crew did on that day, what issues were encountered and how they were overcome, and whether you feel each pulled their own weight. Also note the time spent and the total time spent for various tasks. You will not receive a grade for you films until I receive your logbook.

I will not accept ANY assignments after 1 week following the original due date. Class ends at 8:40, you have until 8:40 the following week to submit a late assignment and still get a small amount of credit.

Grading Scale:

97-100	A +
93-96	A
90-92	A -
87-89	B +
83-86	B
80-82	B -
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D -

Instructions for Checking out Equipment

- The Equipment Room is IT 259
- Do not wait until the last minute to reserve a camera.
- Equipment reservations must be made at least 24 hours in advance.
- Review the equipment check-out policies at:  
<http://soic.iupui.edu/technology/policies/equipment/>

Reserve available equipment at:

<https://soic.iupui.edu/app/support/reserve/equipment/?casticket=ST-840770-cpHBu4txyPW2nIXsl2rb-casprd02.uits.iu.edu>

Accessing IT270 lab for after school hours

To get access to the IT270 after 9 pm weekdays or 6 pm weekends, you will need to print a request form from: <http://informatics.iupui.edu/technology/labs/>

Fill in the form, get my signature, and then submit the form to the equipment room. Once your Crimson Card is scanned, you will be able to enter the lab after school hours.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of IUPUI is to provide for its constituents excellence in

- Teaching and Learning
- Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity
- Civic Engagement

With each of these core activities characterized by

- Collaboration within and across disciplines and with the community
- A commitment to ensuring diversity, and
- Pursuit of best practices

IUPUI's mission is derived from and aligned with the principal components – Communities of Learning, Responsibilities of Excellence, Accountability and Best Practices – of Indiana University's Strategic Directions Charter.

### STATEMENT OF VALUES

IUPUI values the commitment of students to learning; of faculty to the highest standards of teaching, scholarship, and service; and of staff to the highest standards of service. IUPUI recognizes students as partners in learning. IUPUI values the opportunities afforded by its location in Indiana's capital city and is committed to serving the needs of its community. Thus, IUPUI students, faculty, and staff are involved in the community, both to provide educational programs and patient care and to apply learning to community needs through service. As a leader in fostering collaborative relationships, IUPUI values collegiality, cooperation, creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship as well as honesty, integrity, and support for open inquiry and dissemination of findings. IUPUI is committed to the personal and professional development of its students, faculty, and staff and to continuous improvement of its programs and services.

### CODE OF CONDUCT

All students should aspire to the highest standards of academic integrity. Using another student's work on an assignment, cheating on a test, not quoting or citing references correctly, or any other form of dishonesty or plagiarism shall result in a grade of zero on the item and possibly an F in the course. Incidences of academic misconduct shall be referred to the Department Chair and repeated violations shall result in dismissal from the program.

All students are responsible for reading, understanding, and applying the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct and in particular the section on academic misconduct. Refer to The Code > Responsibilities > Academic Misconduct at <http://www.indiana.edu/~code/>. All students must also successfully complete the Indiana University Department of Education "How to Recognize Plagiarism" Tutorial and Test. <https://www.indiana.edu/~istd> You must document the difference between your writing and that of others. Use quotation marks in addition to a citation, page number, and reference whenever writing someone else's words (e.g., following the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association). To detect plagiarism instructors apply a range of methods, including Turnitin.com. <http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/libinfo/turnitin>

## Academic Misconduct:

1. Cheating: <sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub> Cheating is considered to be an attempt to use or provide unauthorized assistance, materials, information, or study aids in any form and in any academic exercise or environment.
  - a. A student must not use external assistance on any “in-class” or “take-home” examination, unless the instructor specifically has authorized external assistance. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, the use of tutors, books, notes, calculators, computers, and wireless communication devices.
  - b. A student must not use another person as a substitute in the taking of an examination or quiz, nor allow other persons to conduct research or to prepare work, without advanced authorization from the instructor to whom the work is being submitted.
  - c. A student must not use materials from a commercial term paper company, files of papers prepared by other persons, or submit documents found on the Internet.
  - d. A student must not collaborate with other persons on a particular project and submit a copy of a written report that is represented explicitly or implicitly as the student’s individual work.
  - e. A student must not use any unauthorized assistance in a laboratory, at a computer terminal, or on fieldwork.
  - f. A student must not steal examinations or other course materials, including but not limited to, physical copies and photographic or electronic images.
  - g. A student must not submit substantial portions of the same academic work for credit or honors more than once without permission of the instructor or program to whom the work is being submitted.
  - h. A student must not, without authorization, alter a grade or score in any way, nor alter answers on a returned exam or assignment for credit.
2. Fabrication: A student must not falsify or invent any information or data in an academic exercise including, but not limited to, records or reports, laboratory results, and citation to the sources of information.
3. Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else’s work, including the work of other students, as one’s own. Any ideas or materials taken from another source for either written or oral use must be fully acknowledged, unless the information is common knowledge. What is considered “common knowledge” may differ from course to course.
  - a. A student must not adopt or reproduce ideas, opinions, theories, formulas, graphics, or pictures of another person without acknowledgment.
  - b. A student must give credit to the originality of others and acknowledge indebtedness whenever: <sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

1. directly quoting another person's actual words, whether oral or written;
  2. using another person's ideas, opinions, or theories;
  3. paraphrasing the words, ideas, opinions, or theories of others, whether oral or written;
  4. borrowing facts, statistics, or illustrative material; or
  5. offering materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgment
4. Interference:<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>A student must not steal, change, destroy, or impede another student's work, nor should the student unjustly attempt, through a bribe, a promise of favors or threats, to affect any student's grade or the evaluation of academic performance. Impeding another student's work includes, but is not limited to, the theft, defacement, or mutilation of resources so as to deprive others of the information they contain.
  5. Violation of Course Rules:<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>A student must not violate course rules established by a department, the course syllabus, verbal or written instructions, or the course materials that are rationally related to the content of the course or to the enhancement of the learning process in the course.
  6. Facilitating Academic Dishonesty:<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>A student must not intentionally or knowingly help or attempt to help another student to commit an act of academic misconduct, nor allow another student to use his or her work or resources to commit an act of misconduct.

## OTHER POLICIES

1. **Administrative withdrawal:** A basic requirement of this course is that students participate in all class discussions and conscientiously complete all required course activities and/or assignments. If a student is unable to attend, participate in, or complete an assignment on time, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor. If a student misses more than half of the required activities within the first 25% of the course without contacting the instructor, the student may be administratively withdrawn from this course. Administrative withdrawal may have academic, financial, and financial aid implications. Administrative withdrawal will take place after the full refund period, and a student who has been administratively withdrawn from a course is ineligible for a tuition refund. Contact the instructor with questions concerning administrative withdrawal.
2. **Civility:** To maintain an effective and inclusive learning environment, it is important to be an attentive and respectful participant in lectures, discussions, group work, and other classroom exercises. Thus, unnecessary disruptions should be avoided, such as ringing cell phones, engagement in private conversations, and other unrelated activities. Cell phones, media players, or any noisy devices should be turned off during a class. Texting, surfing the Internet, and posting to Facebook or Twitter during class are generally not permitted. Laptop use may be permitted if it

is used for taking notes or conducting class activities. Students should check with the instructor about permissible devices in class. IUPUI nurtures and promotes “a campus climate that seeks, values, and cultivates diversity in all of its forms and that provides conditions necessary for all campus community members to feel welcomed, supported, included, and valued” (IUPUI Strategic Initiative 9). IUPUI prohibits “discrimination against anyone for reasons of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, or veteran status” (Office of Equal Opportunity). Profanity or derogatory comments about the instructor, fellow students, invited speakers or other classroom visitors, or any members of the campus community shall not be tolerated. A violation of this rule shall result in a warning and, if the offense continues, possible disciplinary action.

3. **Communication:** For classroom-based courses, the instructor or teaching assistant should respond to emails by the end of the next class or, for online courses, within two Indiana University working days, which excludes weekends and holidays. The instructor should provide weekly office hours or accept appointments for face-to-face, telephone, or teleconferenced meetings, and announce periods of extended absence in advance.
4. **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS):** Students seeking counseling or other psychological services should contact the CAPS office by phone at 274-2548 or email at [capsindy@iupui.edu](mailto:capsindy@iupui.edu). For more information visit <http://life.iupui.edu/caps/>.
5. **Course evaluations:** Course evaluations provide vital information for improving the quality of courses and programs. Students are urged to complete one course and instructor evaluation for each section in which they are enrolled at the School of Informatics and Computing with the following three exceptions: (a) The student has withdrawn from the course; (b) fewer than five students are enrolled in the section (in which case maintaining anonymity is difficult); and (c) the section is a laboratory that must be taken with a course having a different section number. Course evaluations are completed at <https://soic.iupui.edu/app/course-eval/>. Course evaluations are typically open from the eleventh week. Course evaluations are anonymous, which means that no one can view the name of the student completing the evaluation. In addition, no one can view the evaluation itself until after the instructor has submitted the final grades for the course. In small sections, demographic information should be left blank, if it could be used to identify the student.
6. **Disabilities policy:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all qualified students enrolled in this course are entitled to reasonable accommodations. Please notify the instructor during the first week of class of accommodations needed for the course. Students requiring accommodations because of a disability must register with Adaptive Educational Services (AES) and

complete the appropriate AES-issued before receiving accommodations. The AES office is located at UC 100, Taylor Hall (Email: [aes@iupui.edu](mailto:aes@iupui.edu), Tel. 317 274-3241). Visit <http://aes.iupui.edu> for more information.

7. **Email:** Indiana University uses your IU email account as an official means of communication, and students should check it daily for pertinent information. Although you may have your IU email forwarded to an outside email account, please email faculty and staff from your IU email account.
8. **Emergency preparedness:** Safety on campus is everyone's responsibility. Know what to do in an emergency so that you can protect yourself and others. For specific information, visit the emergency management website. <http://protect.iu.edu/emergency>
9. **IUPUI course policies:** A number of campus policies governing IUPUI courses may be found at the following link: [http://registrar.iupui.edu/course\\_policies.html](http://registrar.iupui.edu/course_policies.html)
10. **No class attendance without official enrollment.** Only those who are officially enrolled in this course may attend class unless they are enrolled as an auditor or making up an Incomplete by prior arrangement with the instructor. This policy does not apply to those assisting a student with a documented disability, serving in an instructional role, or administrative personnel. <http://registrar.iupui.edu/official-enrollment-class-attendance.html> Children may not attend class with their parents, guardians, or childcare providers.
11. **Religious holidays:** Students seeking accommodation for religious observances must submit a request form to the course instructor by the end of the second week of the semester. For information visit <http://registrar.iupui.edu/religious.html>.
12. **Right to revise:** The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus as necessary and, in such an event, will notify students of the changes immediately.
13. **Sexual misconduct:** IU does not tolerate sexual harassment or violence. For more information and resources, visit <http://stopsexualviolence.iu.edu/>.
14. **Student advocate:** The Student Advocate provides assistance to students with personal, financial, and academic issues. The Student Advocate Office is located in the Campus Center, Suite 350. The Student Advocate may also be contacted by phone at 317 274-4431 or by email at [studvoc@iupui.edu](mailto:studvoc@iupui.edu). For more information visit <http://studentaffairs.iupui.edu/advocate>.

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