

Eastern Illinois University
New Course Proposal
EIU 4174G, Documentary Film and Society

Agenda Item #15-68 Effective Spring 2016

Banner/Catalog Information (Coversheet)

1. ☒ **New Course** or ☐ **Revision of Existing Course**
2. **Course prefix and number:** EIU 4174G
3. **Short title:** Documentary Film and Society
4. **Long title:** Documentary Film and Society
5. **Hours per week:** 3 Class 2 Lab 3 Credit:
6. **Terms:** ☐ Fall ☐ Spring ☐ Summer ☒ On demand
7. **Initial term:** ☐ Fall ☒ Spring ☐ Summer Year: 2016
8. **Catalog course description:** This course will examine some of the aesthetic, social, and cultural issues unique to documentary film and video. WI.
9. **Course attributes:**

General education component: Senior Seminar

☒ Cultural diversity ☐ Honors ☐ Writing centered ☒ Writing intensive ☐ Writing active
10. **Instructional delivery**
Type of Course:

☒ Lecture ☒ Lab ☐ Lecture/lab combined ☐ Independent study/research
☐ Internship ☐ Performance ☐ Practicum/clinical ☐ Other, specify: _____
Mode(s) of Delivery:

☒ Face to Face ☒ Online ☐ Study Abroad
☐ Hybrid, specify approximate amount of on-line and face-to-face instruction _____
11. Course(s) to be deleted from the catalog once this course is approved. Not Applicable
12. **Equivalent course(s):** There are no equivalent courses.
 - a. **Are students allowed to take equivalent course(s) for credit?** ☐ Yes ☐ No
13. **Prerequisite(s):** Completion of 75 Credit Hours.
 - a. **Can prerequisite be taken concurrently?** ☐ Yes ☒ No
 - b. **Minimum grade required for the prerequisite course(s)?** NA
 - c. **Use Banner coding to enforce prerequisite course(s)?** ☒ Yes ☐ No

d. Who may waive prerequisite(s)?

☒ No one ☐ Chair ☐ Instructor ☐ Advisor ☐ Other (specify) _____

14. Co-requisite(s): NA_____

15. Enrollment restrictions

a. Degrees, colleges, majors, levels, classes which may take the course: All_____

b. Degrees, colleges, majors, levels, classes which may not take the course: NA_____

16. Repeat status: ☒ May not be repeated ☐ May be repeated once with credit

17. Enter the limit, if any, on hours which may be applied to a major or minor: _____

18. Grading methods: ☒ Standard ☐ CR/NC ☐ Audit ☐ ABC/NC

19. Special grading provisions: NA

☐ Grade for course will not count in a student's grade point average.

☐ Grade for course will not count in hours toward graduation.

☐ Grade for course will be removed from GPA if student already has credit for or is registered in:

☐ Credit hours for course will be removed from student's hours toward graduation if student already has credit for or is registered in: _____

20. Additional costs to students: NA

Supplemental Materials or Software _____

Course Fee ☒ No ☐ Yes, Explain if yes _____

21. Community college transfer:

☐ A community college course may be judged equivalent.

☒ A community college may not be judged equivalent.

Note: Upper division credit (3000+) will not be granted for a community college course, even if the content is judged to be equivalent.

Rationale, Justifications, and Assurances (Part I)

1. ☐ Course is required for the major(s) of _____
☐ Course is required for the minor(s) of _____
☐ Course is required for the certificate program(s) of _____
☒ Course is used as an elective for the Film Studies Minor.

2. Rationale for proposal :

Students grow up in a culture that defines and examines itself primarily by telling stories and documenting events through the moving image. One goal of this course is to help students understand documentary film as both a response to and maker of culture. It will also enable them to understand how the makers of documentary film structure their work to communicate ideas and feelings to an audience. Because documentary film is very much a product of the time and place it is created, it can provide an effective way of connecting students to aspects of culture and social development. In this way it can be a powerful way to enhance a student's ability to understand the world, develop critical thinking skills, and promote social change. The electronic version of EIU 4174G is designed to utilize EIU's online course delivery system.

3. Justifications for (answer N/A if not applicable)

This course does not substantially duplicate any existing courses. It is the only senior seminar specifically focusing on documentary film. EIU 4192G, Film and Contemporary Society, is an honors senior seminar focusing on fictional narrative film rather than documentary film in context. EIU 4104, World Film, examines foreign fictional narrative films. And EIU 4170G, History on Film, explores historical fictional narrative films in relation to historical accuracy. CMN 3570 Topic in Media History sometimes focuses on the History of Documentary Film, a course that addresses various historical modes of documentary film and video. But this section of CMN 3570 is not specifically geared towards the analysis of specific social problems and issues in relation to documentary representations. None of these courses explicitly addresses documentary film, culture, and society.

Similarity to other courses: NA

Prerequisites: Completion of 75 Credit Hours as required for Senior Seminars.

The student must successfully complete a seminar outside of his or her major. (Students may take a senior seminar once they have completed 75 semester hours. However, so that those nearing graduation will have first access to seats, only students who have earned or will have earned 90 hours may register without the assistance of the offering department.)

The Senior Seminar at Eastern Illinois University is designed to be a cross-disciplinary culminating experience that will provide students with an opportunity to apply concepts and use skills developed in both their general education and major courses. Information about topics of major importance, e.g. the Holocaust, Social Movements, Women in Science, Technology, Controversies in Education, Sociobiology, etc. will be read, analyzed, discussed, and written about in a three semester-hour seminar led by a faculty member of a discipline different from those of the students. To allow ample time for writing and discussion, senior

seminars will be limited to a maximum of 25 students. As an element of the general education curriculum, each senior seminar shall focus on some aspect of citizenship.

Co-requisites: NA

Enrollment restrictions: NA

Writing active, intensive, centered:

This course is writing-intensive. Several writing assignments and writing activities are required and include a film log, two formal papers, and written exams. These assignments and activities throughout the semester both strengthen writing skills and deepen understanding of course content. All writing assignments other than the exams and film log will require correction and revision. The final analytic film research paper will be revised by the student after it has been read and commented on by the instructor and will follow a writing process that includes a proposal and draft. Writing assignments constitute more than 35% of the final course grade.

4. General education assurances (answer N/A if not applicable)

General education component:

This is a general education course in the senior seminar segment of the general education program. According to the Senior Seminar Mission statement (CAA 10/15/09), a senior seminar should have topics of importance that will be read, analyzed, discussed and written about and have some aspect of citizenship.

EIU 4174G fulfills these requirements. It addresses topics of importance by examining documentary film in the context of cultural, social, and aesthetic issues. It also explores these issues through reading, analysis, and written works that range from informal film logs to a formal research proposal and analytical essay. The course's engagement with culture provides connections with responsible citizenship, as well.

This course also meets cultural diversity requirements. According to EIU's description, "Appropriate courses will focus on one or more of the following in their content: the study of diverse peoples (including issues of race, ethnicity, and gender) at home and abroad; the history, traditions, and/or language of other countries or cultures; and the role of cultural sensitivity in making informed and ethical decisions." EIU 4174G highlights the study of diverse filmmakers and of diverse peoples in their films. It seeks to connect students to aspects of culture and social development and enhance their ability to understand the world and promote social change, as well.

Curriculum:

This course is an arts and humanities-centered Senior Seminar. The Senior Seminar level is appropriate because of the amount of work expected *and* because of the level of sophistication expected in writing and discussion. The course's curriculum addresses these four learning goals: Critical Thinking, Writing and Critical Reading, Speaking and Listening, Responsible Citizenship. These are met in conjunction with the EIU 4174G course objectives as follows:

Students completing this course will:

- a. Identify and analyze the documentary as a tool to address and critique a variety of contemporary and historical social problems and issues. WCR 5, RC2, RC3
- b. Identify and analyze the potential of documentary to foster critical thinking skills and promote social change. WCR 5, RC 2, RC 3
- c. Evaluate the uses of camera, editing, lighting, sound, and acting, as well as their contributions to the construction of meaning for audiences. CT 2
- d. Analyze how documentary film reveals and responds to the social, economic, and cultural contexts of their production. CT 1, WCR 6, SL 1, RC 1
- e. Examine how meaning in documentary film is filtered through various cultural contexts. CT 1, SL 1, RC 1
- f. Identify, critique and apply film theories in relation to global historical contexts. CT 3, CT 4, CT 6, WCR 6, SL 1, RC 4
- g. Write analytically and effectively about film in relation to its historical and cultural contexts. WCR 1, WCR 2, WCR 3, WCR 7
- h. Examine various documentary forms such as observational, propaganda, participatory, reflexivity, diary, experimental and new media methodologies. CT 2, RC 4

Instruction:

Instruction is designed to meet the needs of students across disciplines and will include lecture, discussion, guided practice, and independent practice. Small and whole-group discussions will be conducted through a variety of activities, including fish bowls, carousels, jigsaw, and think-pair-share sessions. Throughout the class, students will engage in informal, formal, and multimodal writing activities, as well. Please note: All faculty who will deliver this course online are or will be OCDI (or appropriate equivalent) trained.

Assessment:

Achievement of the course objectives will be assessed through written papers, discussions, exams, group presentations, film logs, and wiki pages as follows:

- 1) Short Film Analysis Paper
- 2) Film Log
- 3) Midterm Exam
- 4) Final Exam
- 5) Group Presentation and Wiki Page SL 2, SL 3, SL 4, SL 5, SL 6, SL 7
- 6) Analytic Film Research Paper with Proposal

Learning Objectives	Short Paper (10%)	Film Log (10%)	Midterm (15%)	Final (20%)	Group Presentation and Wiki (20%)	Paper and Proposal (25%)
a.	X	X				
b.	X	X	X	X		
c.	X	X	X	X		
d.	X		X	X	X	X

e.	X		X	X	X	X
f.			X	X	X	X
g.	X	X	X	X		X
h.		X	X	X		

The instructor will determine students' grades for the course as follows:

- | | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 1. | Short Film Analysis Paper: | 10% |
| 2. | Film Log: | 10% |
| 3. | Midterm Exam: | 15% |
| 4. | Final Exam: | 20% |
| 5. | Group Presentation and Wiki: | 20% |
| 6. | Analytic Film Research Paper with Proposal: | 25% |

Please see Model Syllabus for further information.

5. Online/Hybrid delivery justification & assurances (answer N/A if not applicable)

Online or hybrid delivery justification:

Providing an online option for EIU 4174G will help students fulfill general education requirements during the summer months, when they are away from campus. The Course Management System along with Email, Telephone Communication, and/or Other Online Communication Forums (e.g. Skype, Google Hangout) will be used to establish relationships and community among class participants and instructor. The Course Management System provides a platform for administering quizzes and exams and acts as a space to submit assignments. The Course Management System provides forums for instructor and student-led discussion.

Instruction:

The electronic version of EIU 4174G is designed to utilize EIU's online course delivery system. The course developer passed EIU's Online Course Development Institute in Fall 2014. Each week will include goals aligned with student learning objectives for the course, brief lectures augmented by presentation software, reading assignments, film screenings through Kaltura, and discussion prompts to facilitate synchronous and asynchronous class engagement and response. Regular logs will assess reading and viewing comprehension. The group Presentation and Wiki will be recorded and shared with the instructor and other students. Peers will evaluate their own and their peers' presentations, as well.

Integrity:

The integrity of student work will be assured in multiple ways. First, the short film analysis paper and analytic film research paper with proposal will both require multiple drafts and revisions, so the writing process for each of these papers will be under the scrutiny of the instructor. These papers will also be responding to questions that require analysis of specific sources and integration of those sources into individual written responses. Evaluation of students in the online course will be open book but based on questions that require critical analysis and synthesis of primary and secondary sources. When applicable, instructors can also

assign students randomized questions on exam questions through the course management system.

Interaction:

Provisions for and requirements of instructor-student and student-student interaction will include web-based discussions in EIU's online course delivery system. Discussion prompts will encourage students to read and respond. These responses, with input from the instructor, will also help students comprehend the material and create an effective learning community. Synchronous or live sessions will be offered twice to ensure student access and will allow students to discuss readings with instructor input. Students' knowledge will be documented by completing writing assignments in a learning environment modeled on the on-campus class session.

Model Syllabus (Part II)

Please include the following information:

1. Course number and title: EIU 4174G, Documentary Film and Society
2. Catalog description: This course will examine some of the aesthetic, social, and cultural issues unique to documentary film and video. WI.
3. Learning objectives. Students completing this course will:
 - a. Identify and analyze the documentary as a tool to address and critique a variety of contemporary and historical social problems and issues. WCR 5, RC2, RC3
 - b. Identify and analyze the potential of documentary to foster critical thinking skills and promote social change. WCR 5, RC 2, RC 3
 - c. Evaluate the uses of camera, editing, lighting, sound, and acting, as well as their contributions to the construction of meaning for audiences. CT 2
 - d. Analyze how documentary film reveals and responds to the social, economic, and cultural contexts of their production. CT 1, WCR 6, SL 1, RC 1
 - e. Examine how meaning in documentary film is filtered through various cultural contexts. CT 1, SL 1, RC 1
 - f. Identify, critique and apply film theories in relation to global historical contexts. CT 3, CT 4, CT 6, WCR 6, SL 1, RC 4
 - g. Write analytically and effectively about film in relation to its historical and cultural contexts. WCR 1, WCR 2, WCR 3, WCR 7
 - h. Examine various documentary forms such as observational, propaganda, participatory, reflexivity, diary, experimental and new media methodologies. CT 2, RC 4

4. Course materials.

Nichols, Bill. *Introduction to Documentary, Second Edition*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press (2010).

Winston, Brian. *The Documentary Film Book*. London, BFI (2013)

5. Weekly outline of content.

The following outline provides an example of content delivered during this course. Online sections will be equivalent to the on-campus units, with the same material included within the same weekly framework.

Online course material will be released the Tuesday evening before the week of instruction in a fifteen-week version of the course, so students will have ample opportunity to access readings, communicate as required, engage in activities, and complete all work for the week.

This course will be in a lecture/lab format as a 3-2-3 course, 45 fifty-minute class periods over 15 weeks, plus 15 120-minute labs over 15 weeks.

In each case, screenings may be full-length or excerpts.

WEEK 1: Introduction to Documentary, Realism, Representation, and Society

Possible Screenings: Alain Resnais *Night and Fog* (1955) or Robert Flaherty *Nanook of the North* (1922).

WEEK 2: Observational, Diary, and Experimental Documentary and Society

Possible Screenings: Lynne Sachs. *Your Day is My Night*. (2013) and/or Dziga Vertov, *The Man with a Movie Camera* (1929).

WEEK 3: Participatory and Reflexive Documentary and Society. Paper I Draft due for peer review and conferences.

Possible Screenings: Agnès Varda *The Gleaners and I* (2000) or Patricio Guzmán *Nostalgia for the Light* (2010).

WEEK 4: Documentary and Labor. Paper I final.

Possible Screenings: Barbara Kopple *Harlan County, USA* (1976) or Micha Peled *China Blue* (2005)

WEEK 5: American Direct Cinema. Assign Paper II (with Proposal)

Possible Screenings: D.A. Pennebaker, *Don't Look Back* (1967) or Ellen Horde/Mayseles Brothers, *Grey Gardens* (1975).

WEEK 6: Documentary and the Gaze: An International Look

Possible Screenings: Forough Farro-Khazad, *The House is Black* (1962) and Georges Franju, *Blood of the Beasts* (1949).

WEEK 7: Rockumentary. Paper II Proposal due.

Possible Screenings: Albert and David Maysles, *Gimme Shelter* (1970), Barbara Kopple

and Cecilia Peck, *Shut Up and Sing* (2006), Julien Temple, *The Filth and the Fury: A Sex Pistols Documentary* (2000), Kerthy Fix, *Who Took the Bomb? Le Tigre on Tour* (2010), Paul Bishow & James Schneider, *Punk the Capital, Straight from Washington, DC* (2014)

WEEK 8: Mockumentary. Midterm Exam.

Possible Screenings: Rob Reiner, *This is Spinal Tap* (1984); Christopher Guest, *Best in Show* (2000), or Casey Affleck, *I'm Still Here* (2010)

WEEK 9: Documentary and Gender. Paper II Proposal Due for peer review and conferences.

Possible Screenings: Trinh T. Minh-ha, *Reassemblage* (1982), *Surname Viet Given Name Nam* (1989), or *The Fourth Dimension* (2001)

WEEK 10: Documentary and Contemporary Ethnography

Possible Screenings: Jennie Livingston, *Paris is Burning* (1990), Marlon Riggs, *Tongues Untied* (1989) or Banksy, *Exit Through the Gift Shop* (2010)

WEEK 11: Documentary in the Community

Possible Screenings: Daniel Cross, *SPIT: Squeegee Punks in Traffic* (2001), Marc Singer, *Dark Days* (2000), Bishakha Datta, *In the Flesh* (2003)

WEEK 12: Documentary and the Environment. Paper II draft due for peer review and conferences.

Possible Screenings: *Food, Inc.* (2008), *The Cove* (2009), *Blue Vinyl: The World's First Toxic Comedy* (2002), *The Last Mountain* (2011).

WEEK 13: Documentary and Economic Inequality

Possible Screenings: Michael Moore, *Roger and Me* (1989) or *Capitalism, a Love Story* (2009).

WEEK 14: The Amateur Documentarian in the Digital Age and New Media Methodologies

Possible Screenings: B. J. Gudmundsson, *Rise Up! West Virginia* (2007)

WEEK 15: Group Presentations with Wiki Pages. Research Paper due.

WEEK 16: Final Exam. Film Logs due.

6. Assignments and evaluation, including weights for final course grade.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Short Film Analysis Paper: | 10% |
| 2. Film Log: | 10% |

3.	Midterm Exam:	15%
4.	Final Exam:	20%
5.	Group Presentation and Wiki:	20%
6.	Analytic Film Research Paper with Proposal:	25%
		<hr/>
		100%

7. Grading scale.
Standard Letter:

90-100: A

80-89: B

70-79: C

60-69: D

0-59: F

8. Correlation of learning objectives to assignments and evaluation.

Learning Objectives	Short Paper (10%)	Film Log (10%)	Midterm (15%)	Final (20%)	Group Presentation and Wiki (20%)	Paper and Proposal (25%)
a.	X	X				
b.	X	X	X	X		
c.	X	X	X	X		
d.	X		X	X	X	X
e.	X		X	X	X	X
f.			X	X	X	X
g.	X	X	X	X		X
h.		X	X	X		

Date approved by the department or school: December 5, 2014

Date approved by the college curriculum committee: February 4, 2015

Date approved by the Honors Council (*if this is an honors course*):

Date approved by CAA: March 12, 2015 CGS: