

Institute for Documentary Filmmaking – MPA 230 and 231

This 9-credit graduate certificate program is open to SMPA and other GW Graduate Students. Students who successfully complete the January through June program will, upon approval, be awarded a Certificate in Documentary Filmmaking. In addition, these credits may count towards their program of studies for the Master's Degree.

Principles and Methods of Documentary Filmmaking

SMPA 230—Spring Semester

Level: Graduate

Credits: 6

This course is both an analytical as well as practical exploration of the elements of documentary filmmaking. Students will analyze the various genres of non-fiction filmmaking and master the fundamentals of film conceptualization, documentary screen writing, story structure, and production theory. Further, students will also learn the basic practical elements of documentary film production: camera, lighting, sound, and Final Cut Pro Editing.

There are no prerequisites for this course but admission is by permission of the instructor.

Documentary Film Production

SMPA 231 – First Summer Session

Level: Graduate

Credits: 3

This course is an intensive, practical experience in documentary film production. Participants in this six-week class will jointly produce a 10-15 minute documentary film on a selected topic.

The course will emphasize the major markers in film production: treatment and script writing, location shooting, Final Cut Pro editing, graphics, music, and final sound mix in order to render a quality, finished documentary video.

Prerequisite is MPA 230 (no substitutions) and by permission of the instructor.

Admission Procedures

Current GW graduate students who are interested in pursuing the certificate program in conjunction with their MA degree must do the following:

- 1) Meet with their graduate program advisor to discuss how these courses fit within the student's program of studies towards the Master's Degree.
- 2) Seek approval for registration from the Director of the Documentary Center.
- 3) Once approval for registration has been obtained from the Director of the Documentary Center, students *must submit a petition requesting admission to the certificate program to the CCAS Graduate Dean* so that credits may count toward both the M.A. and the Certificate in Documentary Filmmaking. This petition must be submitted BEFORE students enroll in the courses for the certificate program. Petition must be signed by the Director of their Graduate Program and the Director of the Documentary Filmmaking Certificate program.
- 4) After petition has been approved, submit to your Dean's Office a signed Registration Transaction Form (available on the Office of the Registrar's web page www.gwu.edu/~regweb) to enroll in SMPA 230 during the Spring semester. Registration Transaction Form must be signed by course instructor.

Current GW graduate students who are interested in taking ONLY the first course, Principles and Methods of Documentary filmmaking, as a part of their Master's coursework must do the following:

- 1) Meet with their Director of Graduate Studies to discuss how the course fits within the student's program of studies towards the Master's Degree.
- 2) Seek approval for registration from the Director of the Documentary Center, verified with a signature on the Registration Transaction Form.

In the event that a student decides to take SMPA 231 during or after having taken SMPA 230, then the *petition for admission to the certificate program must be filed IMMEDIATELY* upon notifying The Documentary Center of your intention to enroll in 231. (See above for information on petition.) The petition must be made no later than two weeks before the class begins or the certificate **cannot** be awarded.