

# Documentary Film



Digital Humanities & Video Game Studies Lab  
University of Maine at Farmington | umfdh.org

## OVERVIEW

Your group will propose, shoot, and edit a documentary film (five minutes) exploring a theme or issue suggested by our course text. This documentary should not refer to the text specifically but rather provide a stand-alone look at a small facet of one of the thematic issues, preferably with a local or regional emphasis. The final film will be screened in the course film festival.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1) Explore a theme from our readings in a creative way.
- 2) Direct a technically-proficient film that is compelling and thought provoking for a viewing audience.
- 3) Craft a polished Directors' Statement that frames the viewing experience for a contemporary viewing audience who may not be familiar with the original work.

## RATIONALE

All too often, we think of historical texts as distant and foreign from our contemporary moment. In your Film Project, you should explore what is important about our course on your own terms in our current moment. Use interviews, candid footage, voiceovers, etc., in order to explore your theme in the present day. At the end of the sequence, you will screen the film to the class during finals week during our course film festival. In this event, you will introduce your films and answer questions from your classmates about your process, creative choices, cinematic technique, etc.

## REQUIRED ELEMENTS

- 1) You will create a brief proposal (two pages) that outlines your approach to the project, including defining your contemporary connection.
- 2) You will plan, shoot, and edit a five-minute film that engages a key concept from our course text.
- 3) You will compose a collaborative Directors' Statement (two to three pages) that introduces your film to a viewing audience and explains the contemporary resonance of the original text.

## FORMATTING

The Curator's Statement, self-assessment rubric, and proposal should be created in Google Docs and shared before the due date. The Film itself should also be shared on Google Drive in .mov or .mp4 format.