

Prifysgol Wreccsam Wrexham University

Module specification

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|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Module Code | CMT547 |
| Module Title | Filming Reality - Documentary Modes |
| Level | 5 |
| Credit value | 20 |
| Faculty | FACE |
| HECoS Code | 100443 |
| Cost Code | GACT |
| Pre-requisite module | NA |

Programmes in which module to be offered

| Programme title | Core/Optional/Standalone |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| BA (Hons) Filmmaking | Core |

Breakdown of module hours

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Learning and teaching hours | 24 hrs |
| Placement tutor support hours | 0 hrs |
| Supervised learning hours e.g. practical classes, workshops | 6 hrs |
| Project supervision hours | 0 hrs |
| Active learning and teaching hours total | 30 hrs |
| Placement hours | 0 hrs |
| Guided independent study hours | 170 hrs |
| Module duration (Total hours) | 200 hrs |

Module aims

An exploration of the theory and practice of documentary filmmaking, focusing on different documentary modes and their techniques. Students will analyse the challenges and creative opportunities presented by documentary storytelling and develop their skills in creating compelling and authentic documentary films.

Module Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, students will be able to:



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|---|---|
| 1 | Identify and describe key principles and techniques of a variety of documentary modes. |
| 2 | Evaluate ethical, technical, and narrative challenges encountered in documentary production, and propose appropriate storytelling strategies in response. |
| 3 | Demonstrate understanding of the historical and theoretical frameworks underpinning documentary practice and criticism. |
| 4 | Apply documentary principles and techniques to plan, produce, and critically reflect on original non-fiction film work. |

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

Documentary Project

- Presentation:** Submit a presentation outlining the conventions of your chosen documentary mode(s), and how it will apply to your own chosen topic. You may include:
 - Influences and style.
 - Historical examples and case studies.
 - Identification of key themes and elements to be explored in the documentary.
 - Discussion of the challenges and opportunities in documenting the chosen subject.
- Documentary Film Project:** Develop a short documentary film (or films) that employs techniques from the studied documentary modes.

| Assessment number | Learning Outcomes to be met | Type of assessment | Duration/Word Count | Weighting (%) | Alternative assessment, if applicable |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1, 3 | Presentation | 10 min | 25% | N/A |
| 2 | 2, 4 | Portfolio | 5-7 mins | 75% | N/A |

Derogations

None.

Learning and Teaching Strategies

Instruction and learning are delivered through various methods, including lectures, workshops, seminars, small group tutorials, Q&A sessions and online delivery via ALF. This would include blended learning with accessible online content, prioritising flexibility and inclusivity.

Many classes are exercise-based, promoting active student engagement in their learning process. One-on-one consultations with personal tutors and the presence of regular presentations throughout the course encourages students to engage in reflective learning.

Welsh Elements

In collaboration with the Welsh Language Team at Wrexham University, it is planned that key terms in the degree programme and certain topic areas will be available in Welsh – whether through workshop sessions, or audio and video material, with potential expansion of such capacity.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Overview of documentary theory and the evolution of documentary modes.
- Analysis of key documentary modes and their techniques (e.g., observational, participatory, reflexive).
- Exploration of ethical challenges and responsibilities in documentary filmmaking.
- Creative strategies for crafting authentic and compelling narratives.
- Practical exercises in documentary pre-production, production, and post-production.
- Critiques of student and professional documentary works to enhance storytelling skills.

Indicative Bibliography:

Essential Reads

Saunders, D. (2010), *Documentary*. London: Routledge.

Supplementary Texts

Rosenthal, A. (2007), *Making Documentary Films and Videos: A Practical Guide to Planning, Filming, and Editing Documentaries*. New York: Holt Paperbacks.

Aitken, I. (1998), *The Documentary Film Movement: An Anthology*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Administrative Information

| For office use only | |
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| Initial approval date | September 2026 |
| With effect from date | September 2026 |
| Date and details of revision | |
| Version number | 1 |