

CINE 381A

Studies in Documentary: The Nature Documentary

Model contributed by Michael Caplan

Production course for advanced documentary students studies and engages in various subgenres of documentary filmmaking. Such past topics have included visualizing the documentary, the nature film documentary, and cinema verite. Students may repeat this course as topics change.

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate in writing the ability to analyze films for their formal and cultural meanings.
- Participate in weekly class discussions in the form of peer review, group work, or online exercises.
- Demonstrate in production the ability to respond in the form of a short film to an example of a particular style of documentary storytelling.
- Demonstrate an ability to draft and revise essays based on peer review and professor comments.

Class schedule and format

Three Week Modules

Course-specific organization, examples and ideas

WEEK 1

Remote Class Meeting

- Unique to Week One
 - Intro to Class
 - Discussion of Learning Outcomes
 - Discussion of Class Structure
- Repeatabe Module
 - Intro to the first 3-week Module's Focus
 - Types of Nature Documentaries
 - First Type of Nature Documentary
 - View Films Offline
 - Assignment: Write Response Paper for Films and Post on Canvas

WEEK 2

In Person Class Meeting (Half of the Class in Person, half Remote.)

- Repeatabe Module
 - Present Papers
 - Discuss Papers
 - Discuss Week 3 Assignment: Produce Response Video and Post on Canvas

WEEK 3

In Person Class Meeting (Half of the Class in Person, half Remote.)

- Repeatabe Module
 - Present Videos
 - Discuss Videos
 - Discuss Week 4 Assignment: Readings on Module 2's Documentary Focus

REPEAT 3-WEEK MODULE UNTIL END OF SEMESTER.

