

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	Humanities, Social Sciences & Communications
Programme:	Communications
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Sport in Documentary Film
Course Code:	COM 5415
Course Leader:	Dr. Colin Howley
Student Engagement Hours:	120
Seminar / Tutorials:	45
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
Semester:	Fall/Spring/Summer
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

Sport in Documentary Film explores the relationship between sport and documentary filmmaking in order to analyze the representations generated in a distinctive genre of filmic production. Sport documentaries constitute a significant aspect of the documentary tradition and the course employs sociological, historical and cultural studies approaches to examine a wide variety of textual examples. Students are also encouraged use recent ideas in film theory to develop a critical understanding of ways in which intersections between sporting cultures and documentary practice produces divergent discourses about identity, politics, and aesthetics.

Prerequisites: None

Aims and Objectives:

The course aims to explore the cultural significance of the sport documentary genre within wider social contexts of the twentieth and twenty-first century. Through engagement with theoretical ideas, textual readings, and class discussion, students

will produce critiques and analyses of examining the varied cultural meanings within sport documentaries.

By the end of the course a successful student will have:

- Understanding of the different theoretical ideas about sports documentary filmmaking
- Developed a range of critical skills for analyzing and writing on sport documentaries
- Reflected upon the social contexts and cultural practices represented with sport documentaries

Programme Outcomes:

5A(ii); 5A(iii); 5B(ii); 5B(iii); 5C(iii); 5D(ii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

1. Understand the different theoretical ideas about sports documentary filmmaking

Relevant Threshold Criteria

Students should be able to demonstrate an ability to engage with key ideas in documentary theory and engage with different cultural perspectives centering upon the filmic presentation, production, and reception of sporting practices.

2. Developed a range of critical skills for analyzing and writing on sport documentary filmmaking

Relevant Threshold Criteria

Students should develop a variety of analytical skills in order produce thoughtful and well-supported critical arguments and pursue independent research on sport documentaries.

3. Reflect upon the social contexts and cultural practices represented in sport documentary filmmaking

Relevant Threshold Criteria

Students should be able to demonstrate understanding of the intersections between sporting thematic and filmic production in sport documentaries and reflect upon the social contexts and cultural practices.

Indicative Content:

- Theories and practices of documentary filmmaking
- Social practices of sport
- Sport and identity politics
- Sport and nationalism and globalization
- Sporting spectacles and filmic technologies

Assessment:

Assessment	Description	Assessment method
1. Research Project	Comparative research paper focusing on at least one documentary film studied on the course (plus at least one other film).	Written assessment 2000 words (35%)
2. Documentary Review Portfolio	Review portfolio of documentary films studied on the course – these must include analysis of specified technical, thematic and theoretical components.	4 x extended portfolio entries 500 words each (30%)
4. Final Examination	Final examination with two essay responses chosen from a selection of set questions.	Examination (35%)

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

Teaching Methodology:

Teaching will be a combination of film screenings, lectures, and seminar discussions. Lectures will be designed to introduce the key theories and cover fundamental issues in sport documentary filmmaking and seminars will build upon the content of recommended articles and book chapters from the reading list and additional recommended readings. Students will be advised to supplement lecture notes by reading the relevant indicative reading(s). The lectures will be participative in nature and will encourage commentary, analysis and other in-class contributions.

Bibliography:*Indicative Text(s):*

Geiger, Jeffery. *American Documentary Film: Projecting the Nation*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP, 2010.

Houlihan, Barrie. *Sport in Society: A Student Introduction*. London: Sage, 2008.

Ingle, Zachary & Sutera, David (Ed.), *Gender and Genre in Sports Documentaries*. Plymouth: The Scarecrow Press Inc., 2012.

