

COMM 2052 DOCUMENTARY: FACTUAL SCREEN MEDIA

Credit Points 10

Legacy Code 102830

Coordinator Maryella Hatfield (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Maryella Hatfield/>)

Description Documentary is an evolving area that continues to flux and change. Due to developments in media distribution, technological change and convergence, audiences are increasingly engaging with factual content in new and innovative ways. This subject explores both conceptual and production approaches to documentary in various forms. Students are introduced to key documentary histories and modes and examine a range of traditional and evolving practices including animated, online interactive and transmedia documentary outcomes. Students produce a short documentary project and in doing so develop professional skills and approaches to production roles as well as ethical relationships and responsibilities with participants and topics.

School Humanities & Comm Arts

Discipline Audio Visual Studies

Student Contribution Band HECS Band 4 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees (https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/) page.

Level Undergraduate Level 2 subject

Pre-requisite(s) COMM 1041 - Screen Media Fundamentals

Co-requisite(s) -

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Discuss the development of documentary histories, forms, concepts and production techniques.
2. Articulate a range of ways in which evolving forms and directions in documentary production influence current documentary media.
3. Research and write a documentary proposal.
4. Discuss the ways ethical issues related to documentary subjects and topics are reflected in documentary production.
5. Develop and produce a short documentary project.
6. Integrate theoretical and practical knowledge in the reflective analysis of content creation and production roles.

Subject Content

1. Documentary histories and concepts
2. Evolving documentary forms (animated, online interactive, transmedia)
3. Documentary research and proposal writing skills
4. Documentary practice (preproduction to postproduction)
5. Ethical considerations and responsibilities involved with working with subjects and topics
6. Reflective practice

Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Quiz	5 multiple choice quizzes (10 questions per quiz)	10	N	Individual	Y
Proposal	2,000 words or equivalent	30	N	Group/ Individual	Y
Applied Project	Up to 10 minutes	30	N	Group	Y
Reflection	1,500 words or equivalent	30	N	Individual	Y

Teaching Periods

Autumn (2025)

Parramatta - Victoria Rd

On-site

Subject Contact Maryella Hatfield (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Maryella Hatfield/>)

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=COMM2052_25-AUT_PS_1#subjects)