

Semester: 6				
Course : Major				
Paper Title: Documentary Cinema				
Paper code: C3MV230641P			Credits: 4	
Hours/week : 4				
Category: Core/MDC/SEC/VAC : Core				
Theory / Practical / Composite : Practical				
No of Modules : 1				
<p>Course Overview: This course introduces students to the craft of documentary filmmaking, guiding them through the process of conceiving and shaping non-fiction stories for the screen. Students will learn the practical and creative skills required to make a documentary film, gain an understanding of the various modes of documentary, and explore how the form has evolved over time in response to changing technologies, aesthetics, and social contexts. Research methods and ethical considerations in documentary practice are taught while collaborative exercises and group projects help students develop the ability to work effectively as a unified production team.</p>				
<p>Course Outcome:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remember: Students remember the fundamental concepts of documentary filmmaking—its purpose, history, major modes, and key terminology. 2. Understand: Students understand the characteristics of various documentary modes, describe ethical considerations, and interpret how research methods shape non-fiction storytelling. 3. Apply: Students apply basic production tools and creative techniques to plan and shape documentary ideas. 4. Analyse: Students examine how documentaries structure truth, evaluate different stylistic choices. 5. Evaluate: Students critique documentary works by assessing creative decisions, technical execution, research quality, and ethical integrity. 6. Create: Students collaboratively design, plan, and produce an original documentary film. They generate story concepts, synthesize research findings, orchestrate team roles, and produce a cohesive non-fiction work that reflects creative intent and ethical responsibility. 				
Prerequisites: <i>Basic knowledge about any prior course</i>				
SYLLABUS				
UNIT/Module	CONTENT	HOURS or NUMBE R OF	CO Mappin g	COGNITIV E LEVEL

		CLASSES		
I.	<p>Understanding early documentaries (Flaherty, Grierson and Dziga Vertov)</p> <p>Explaining and demonstrating modes of documentary</p> <p>Significance of research in documentary</p> <p>Understanding Cinema Verite and Direct Cinema</p> <p>Analysis of different types of documentary</p> <p>Indian documentary: history and trends</p> <p>Importance of ethics in documentary</p> <p>Documentary and activism</p> <p>Development of a topic for documentary film</p> <p>Interviewing techniques</p> <p>Making a documentary from idea to screen.</p> <p>Documentary films of maximum 15 mins duration will be made by students in groups.</p>	4	CO1, CO2, CO3, CO4, CO5, CO6	K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, K6
Text Books				
1. Bill, N.(2001). <i>An Introduction to Documentary</i> . Indiana University Press.				
2. Bordwell, D., & Thompson, K. (2020). <i>Film Art: An Introduction</i> . (12th ed.) The McGraw-Hill Companies.				

Suggested readings

- Barnouw, E (1993). *A History of the Non-Fiction Film*, Oxford University Press,
- Aufderheide, P (2007). *Documentary Film: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press.
- Bill, N.(2001). *An Introduction to Documentary*. Indiana University Press.
- Barsam, R. M. (1992). *Nonfiction film: A critical history* (Vol. 706). Indiana University Press.
- Jayasankar, K. P., & Monteiro, A. (2015). *A fly in the curry: Independent documentary film in India*. SAGE Publications India.
- Kishore, S., & Ray, K. (Eds.). (2024). *Resistance in Indian documentary film: Aesthetics, culture and practice*. Routledge.
- Nichols, B. (2016). *Speaking truths with film: Evidence, ethics, politics in documentary*. University of California Press.
- Rangan P. (2017). *Immediations: The humanitarian impulse in documentary*. Duke University Press.

Web Resources

1. <https://nofilmschool.com/>

2. <https://www.youtube.com/>

Evaluation : Continuous Assessment: 95 marks

Paper Structure for Theory Semester Exam Module : NA

Course outcomes (COs) and Cognitive Level Mapping

COs	CO Description	Cognitive levels
CO 1	Students remember the fundamental concepts of documentary filmmaking—its purpose, history, major modes, and key terminology.	K1
CO 2	Students understand the characteristics of various documentary modes, describe ethical considerations, and interpret how research methods shape non-fiction storytelling.	K2
CO 3	Students apply basic production tools and creative techniques to plan and shape documentary ideas	K3

CO 4	Students examine how documentaries structure truth, evaluate different stylistic choices.	K4
CO 5	Students critique documentary works by assessing creative decisions, technical execution, research quality, and ethical integrity.	K5
CO 6	Students collaboratively design, plan, and produce an original documentary film. They generate story concepts, synthesize research findings, orchestrate team roles, and produce a cohesive non-fiction work that reflects creative intent and ethical responsibility	K6