

ARTS 310: AMERICAN DOCUMENTARY TRADITION FALL, 2009

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office hours: by appointment

This course examines documentary film and photography as tools for social change and cultural preservation. Students will analyze how these media create narratives and frame issues of justice and cross-cultural understanding. Students will learn the basic language of film and photography as well as political uses of art. Contemporary works will be studied in the context of social, economic and cultural issues.

Each student is expected to acquire and demonstrate the skills of an active, critical viewer who moves from the factual/content level to a deeper one of meaning and engagement; to practice public speaking in class discussion and oral presentations; to be mindful of their learning process as an individual and member of a community; to write and speak analytically about documentary practices in film and photography.

Attendance and active participation are critical to the success of the course. Students should come prepared to work and participate as soon as class begins, with texts and notes from reading and/or viewing. It is the individual student's responsibility to obtain all handouts, notes and assignments, even if absent from class. Unexcused absences, persistent tardiness, and/or early departure will result in a lower grade.

Work is due in hard copy at the beginning of class on the stated deadline. Late work or work sent via email will not be accepted without advance permission. There are no make-up exams or quizzes. The university policy on academic honesty will be strictly observed. Class communication will be conducted through the university email system—@unca.edu—with "ARTS 310" in the subject line.

TEXTS: * Selected articles posted on electronic course reserves for ARTS 310/IGLESIAS
 * Assigned websites
 * Please note that the syllabus is also posted on electronic reserves.

GRADING:
 * Quizzes 15%
 * Final exam 15%
 * Photography presentation 15%
 * Film log 15%
 * Participation 40% (This will be based on the substance and relevance of your in-class and preparatory writing in response to reading and viewing and on the depth of engagement in class discussions.)

Description of grading: A 90-100: VERY HIGH LEVEL OF SKILL AND ENGAGEMENT (excellent preparation, relevant questions and comments, clear demonstration of analysis, insight and observation; viewing and reading for meaning; grasp of major techniques, concepts and themes; thorough and skillful completion of assignments and tests; well developed writing and verbal skills)

B 80-89: HIGH C 70-79: MODERATE D 60-69: MEDIOCRE F below 60: MINIMAL

ARTS 310 Outcomes: Students who complete an ARTS 310 class will be able to: articulate the value of the arts studied and their impact on the self and others; recognize cultural, historical and political aspects of the arts studied; and define and articulate the concepts, methods and organizing principles of the arts studied.