

Code: FLMD-322E.40

Course title: Contemporary Documentary Cinema: Texts and Contexts

Course convenors: Balázs Varga

Class time and place: Wednesday 09:00-10:30 -137

Course type: Seminar

Course content: The course covers crucial social and cultural in contemporary documentary cinema. Topics include issues of political engagement and social responsibility, memory and trauma, representations of subjectivity. We will discuss both acclaimed contemporary films and relevant documentaries from Eastern European cinemas.

Requirements: Participants are required to regularly attend the course (more than 3 absences result in an incomplete), to watch the films, read the assigned texts weekly and give a presentation during the course.
Course grade is calculated after final essay exam (cca. 1500-2000 words), with regard to students' inclass activity.

Learning outcomes: Focused and relevant understanding and knowledge regarding trends and problems of 'reality', 'fiction' and 'documentaries' within contemporary social realities and digital culture.

Indicative Reading: Barnouw, Erik: *Documentary: A History of the Non-Fiction Film*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1993.
Beattie, Keith: *Documentary Screens. Non-Fiction Film and Television*. New York, Palgrave Macmillan, 2004.
Bruzzi, Stella: *New documentary: a critical introduction*. London – New York, Routledge, 2006.
Chanan, Michael: Truth Games. Cinéma vérité and Direct Cinema. In: Chanan, Michael: *The Politics of Documentary*. London, BFI, 2007. 166–183.
Cowie, Elizabeth: *Recording Reality, Desiring the Real*. Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 2011.
Ellis, Jack C.: *A new history of documentary film*. New York, Continuum, 2005.
Juhász, Alexandra – Lerner, Jesse (eds.): *F Is for Phony: Fake Documentary and Truth's Undoing*. Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 2006.
Macdonald, Kevin – Cousins, Mark: *Imagining reality: the Faber book of documentary*. London, Faber and Faber, 2006.
Nichols, Bill: *Introduction to Documentary*. Bloomington, Indiana University Press, 2001.
Nichols, Bill: *Representing Reality: Issues and Concepts in Documentary*. Bloomington, Indiana University Press, 1991.
Plantinga, Carl R.: *Rhetoric and Representation in Nonfiction Film*. Cambridge – New York, Cambridge University Press, 1997.
Renov, Michael (ed.): *Theorizing Documentary*. New York, Routledge, 1993.
Rhodes, Gary D. – Parris Springer, John (eds.): *Docufictions: essays on the intersection of documentary and fictional filmmaking*. Jefferson, McFarland & Co., 2006.
Rosenthal, Alan (ed.): *New Challenges for Documentary*. Manchester – New York, Manchester University Press, 2005.
Ward, Paul: *Documentary: The Margins of Reality*. London, Wallflower, 2005.
Winston, Brian: *Lies, Damn Lies and Documentaries*. London, British Film Institute, 2000.