Module Descriptor

Title	The Short Film (Documentary)		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	
Code	FILM08006	**SCQF Level**	8
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**BCIBusiness and Creative Industries**		
Module Co-ordinator	Callum Rice		

Summary of Module

This module is an introduction to the making of cinematic documentary films. It is a practical filmmaking module, supported by a theoretical and contextual overview of the practice of making documentary films today. The module will also consider historical developments and offer a basic analysis of divergent contemporary forms, ethics, and key questions within documentary filmmaking.

The intention of the module is to encourage students to see the documentary film as an opportunity to produce creative, emotionally involved stories. The module is an opportunity to discover how the modern documentary film made with modest means can be just as creative, engaging, and exciting as any mainstream cinema.

The module will be delivered through a programme of lectures, screenings, and seminars, as well as practical workshops and development tutorials. Students will participate in short group production exercises, taking on a range of production roles. These roles will rotate wherever possible. Students will initially research, produce, and present a proposal for a short observational documentary film.

Module Delivery Method	**On-Campus[1]** ☒	**Hybrid[2]** ☐	**Online[3]** ☐	**Work -Based Learning[4]** ☐
Campuses for Module Delivery	☒ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London	☐ Online / Distance Learning	

[1] Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[2] The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[3] Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[4] Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

			☐ Paisley		☐ Other (specify)	
Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	☒	Term 2	☐	Term 3	☐
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Demonstrate a developed knowledge of filmmaking within the contexts of documentary.
L2	Demonstrate an ability to research, develop, and present concepts for documentary films.
L3	Participate in the production of a short documentary film as an effective member of a production team.
L4	Demonstrate an awareness of contemporary documentary production contexts and creative debates.
L5	Provide a reflective account of their own work in the context of contemporary documentary filmmaking.

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	**During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:**
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	**SCQF 8** 8 Apply knowledge, skills and understanding: In using a range of professional skills, techniques, practices and/or materials associated with short documentary film production. In using a few skills, techniques, practices and/or materials that are advanced or complex in relation to fiction film production. In carrying out routine lines of enquiry, development or investigation into professional level problems and issues. To adapt routine practices of documentary film production within accepted standards.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**Please select SCQF Level** 8 Undertake critical analysis, evaluation and/or synthesis of ideas, concepts, information and issues that are within the common understandings of documentary film production.
Generic Cognitive skills	**Please select SCQF Level** 8 Use a range of approaches to formulate and critically evaluate evidence-based solutions/responses to defined and/or routine

	problems and issues associated with short documentray film production.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**Please select SCQF Level** 8 Use a wide range of routine skills and some advanced and specialised skills associated with short documentary film production, for example: Convey complex information about short documentary film production to a range of audiences and for a range of purposes. Use a range of standard software programmes associated with short film production and post-production.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**Please select SCQF Level** 8 Exercise autonomy and initiative in some activities at a professional level in short documentary film production. Exercise managerial responsibility for the work of others and for a range of resources. Practise in ways that show awareness of own and others' roles, responsibilities and contributions when carrying out and evaluating tasks. Work, under guidance, with others to acquire an understanding of current professional practice. Manage, under guidance, ethical and professional issues in accordance with current professional and/or ethical codes or practices.

Prerequisites	**Module Code** FILM07008	**Module Title** Creative Filmmaking Practice
	Other N/A	
Co-requisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**

Learning and Teaching	
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours.	
Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	**Student Learning Hours** (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	30
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	6
Asynchronous Class Activity	10
Independent Study	154
Please select	

Please select	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: • This Much Is True – 14 Directors on Documentary Filmmaking, James Quinn (UWS library) • Documentary Storytelling: Creative Nonfiction on Screen, Sheila Curran Bernard (UWS library) • Directing the Documentary, Michael Rabiger, 2012 (UWS library & online) • The Shut Up and Shoot Documentary Guide: A Down & Dirty DV Production, Anthony Q. Artis (UWS library online only) • Imagining Reality: The Faber Book of Documentary, Kevin Macdonald & Mark Cousins (UWS library)
(N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements
In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time. **For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:**

Equality and Diversity
The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code.
(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	**Please select**
Overall Assessment Results	☐ **Pass / Fail** ☒ **Graded**
Module Eligible for Compensation	☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** **If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.**
School Assessment Board	Arts & Media
Moderator	Shona Wallace

External Examiner	A Nevill
Accreditation Details	Screenskills Scotland
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	N/A

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Verbal Group presentation for a 4–7-minute documentary - 20%
Assessment 2
Group production film and portfolio – combined mark 50%
Assessment 3
Critical Reflection. (1500 words) 30%
(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed. (ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Group Presentation	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	20	

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Critical Reflection	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	50	

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	30	
Combined total for all components						100%	200 hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**
Further guidance on aggregate regulation and application when completing template	16/01/2020	H McLean
Updated contact hours	14/09/21	H McLean

Updated Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure	19/10/2023	C Winter
Updated UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code	19/10/2023	C Winter
Guidance Note 23-24 provided	12/12/23	D Taylor
General housekeeping to text across sections	12/12/23	D Taylor
Updated Module Descriptor	25/02/25	C Rice
No changes	March 2026	NMc