Instructor: Sean O'Brien at sean.o'bien@msou.mt.edu
Office hours: MW 11-12:30 in LA 110 and by apt.

Readings: Handouts

Requirements: Short film analysis essays
Documentary treatment
Documentary exercises
15-minute documentary: All students will be required to show their documentary in the class’s We Did It Ourselves Film Festival at the Crystal Theater on Sunday, December 11.
Note: NO DOCUMENTARY SHOULD EXCEED FIFTEEN MINUTES!

Schedule:

8/31 Introduction
Assignment for 9/14: 2-pg. review of Brother’s Keeper
- ½ pg. review of four docs from Sean’s list

9/7 Discussion of Brother’s Keeper
Approaches to Documentary
Due today: review of Brother’s Keeper plus 4 other short reviews
Assignments for 9/14: Composition exercises
2-3 minute documentary (Do not exceed 3 minutes and no faux documentaries!!)
Treatment for the final documentary

9/14 Documentary Basics: Pre-Production, Production, Post-Production
Critique student documentaries
Choose documentaries and groups
Due today: Treatment for documentary
Assignment for 9/21: Short review essay of The White Diamond

9/21 The Interview - Bring your cameras!!
Due today: 2-pg. review essay of The White Diamond
Assignment for 9/28: a 15-minute interview cut to 3 minutes
9/28
Cover
Critique of interviews
Due today: 3-minute cut interview
Assignment for 10/5: cover a 3-minute interview

10/5
Critique of covered interview
Shooting video: guest lecture
Due today: cover of 3-minute interview
Assignment for 10/12: non-interview, character development exercise

10/12
Critique of non-interview exercise
Due today: non-interview exercise
Assignment for 10/19– Keep going – have something to show!!

10/19
The Introduction
Due Today: show something new
Assignment for 10/26 – Documentary’s Introduction

10/26
Workshopping Introductions
Due today – Documentary’s Introduction
Assignment for 11/2 – first half of doc.

11/2
Workshopping first half of documentary
Due today: first half of documentary
Assignment for 11/19 – ¾ of the documentary

11/9
Workshopping ¾ cut
Assignment for 11/16 – First complete cut

11/16
Workshopping first cut
Due today: Complete first cut of documentary
Assignment for 11/23 – Second cut of documentary

11/23
Thanksgiving Break

11/30
Workshopping second cut of documentary
Assignment: polish, polish, polish

12/7
FINAL CUT OF DOCUMENTARY DUE

12/11
CLASS’S DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL AT THE CRYSTAL THEATER at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11
THERE WILL BE A FINAL EXAM MONDAY, DEC. 12, From 11:00-12:00 a.m.