

## Documentary: Theory and Practice - FILM 448

Instructor: Sean O'Brien at sean.o'brien@mso.umt.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.**