



CONNECT SD HOOVER HIGH FILM CLASS
Documentary Filmmaking

March 2011—People in Your Community
April 2011--People in Your Family
May 2011--People in City Heights from Other Cultures

Instructor: Mike Watson

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Course Description

In this course, we will be exploring and making documentary films while also learning how to build and reinforce family, community and intercultural connections. We will be using hands-on techniques to learn more about the different parts of documentary filmmaking, such as interviewing, operating a camera, and editing.

Furthermore, we will also be learning how documentary filmmaking helps us show the stories of people and/or groups who may not have had a chance for their voice to be heard before. By enlightening and empowering the City Heights community through film, we can help shape a more compassionate and cultured society.

Course Goals

In this course, all students will be expected to attend regularly, participate actively in the class activities and discussions, and perform assignments both inside and outside the classroom. The class assignments will culminate in a short documentary film that each student will make. These films will be about 3-5 minutes long. In March, each student will be making a film about a person in your community that you are not related to. For April, the film should focus upon a person in your family. The spotlight for the May films is to film a person who are City Heights residents but not a member of the student's culture. These films will be shown in class.



Class Schedule

1. Wednesday Topics to be covered/Class Activities
 - Introduce and discuss documentary films, community, and conflict in films
 - Watch *Last Minutes with Oden* and discuss connections between documentaries and community

2. Thursday Topics to be covered/Class Activities
 - Discussion on building a character
 - Watch *Unreserved: The Work of Louie Gong*
 - Guest Speaker: Tracy Rector to talk about *Unreserved*
 - Interviewing for a documentary, especially how to approach people
 - Introduction to loglines

3. Wednesday Topics to be covered/Class Activities
 - Photography Theory
 - How to use the cameras

4. Thursday Topics to be covered/Class Activities
 - How to interview
 - Photography Exercise
 - Class activity about interviewing

5. Wednesday Topics to be covered/Class Activities
 - How to edit
 - Use of Premiere/Film Cut Pro

6. Thursday Topics to be covered/Class Activities
 - Edit interviews of class partner

7. Wednesday Topics to be covered/Class Activities
 - Edit, show and talk about documentaries

Resources

AFI Basics Handbook

<myhero.com/myhero/go/theteachersroom/pdf/AFI_BasicsHandbook.pdf>