

Florida International University
CARTA School of Music
MUC 5614 Documentary Film Scoring
Spring 2019 Wednesdays 4:00 –5:00 p.m. MBUS 439 - and private meetings TBA

Professor: Dr. Orlando Jacinto Garcia
Contact: garciao@fiu.edu; 305-535-2619
Office hours: MBUS 439 by appointment

Course description: MUC 5614 is designed to enhance and help develop the students in depth understanding of scoring music for documentary video and related filmmaking. This will be accomplished through two approaches. The first will be class meetings to discuss and analyze important documentary films and other related video to understand how music/sound is used in them. Students will be responsible for viewing and analyzing the films/videos prior to the class and then participate in class discussions based on the findings of their analysis of how sound and music is used. The second approach will be the scoring of short documentaries being produced by students in the DIG 4552 Digital Media Capstone class being taught in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication as well as INSPICIO video documentaries being produced by CARTA in the MMC 3932 course. The short documentaries will be developed throughout the semester as a collaborative project and the final product due at different parts of the semester. Prerequisite for the class is permission of the instructor and/or undergraduate upper level standing in music composition. In selected cases, advanced students in the upper level of other undergraduate music programs may be considered although facility with digital audio workstations is a minimum requirement for all students in the class.

Course objectives: Students in this course are expected to develop an advanced understanding of documentary and related videos/films and the music used in them, commencing with the earliest moments of technological and societal changes during the late 19th and early 20th centuries that led to the first instances of non-fiction, narrative filmmaking, to key contemporary moments that have shaped the genre as a whole. In order to effectively score documentary films, it is important for music students to understand some of the key questions, ethical debates and controversies that have shaped the genre since the first moments of documentary filmmaking:

- What is a ‘documentary,’ and why is this the term used to describe the genre?
- Is it possible to ‘document reality’ and what are the subjective choices made by all filmmakers that shape the stories they tell - what role does sound play in these choices?
- What changes when the camera captures a scene from ‘real life’ and you add music/sound?
- How involved can filmmakers be in the process of creation and interaction with their subjects while still remaining true to their objectives and honest with their audiences and how can music impact this?
- What are the ethical questions facing documentary filmmakers and what responsibilities do they have towards their subjects and stories?

As the second key component to the course, it is expected that students will consider these questions when watching the films and videos assigned, during their discussions and analysis, and that they will apply what they are learning to the collaborative documentary projects that they will develop over the course of the semester.

Student learning outcomes: By the end of the semester, it is expected that students will leave class with the following:

- 1) An advanced overview of the history, development and impact of documentary films/video and documentary film/video music
- 2) An in depth understanding of the films and other videos assigned in the class in terms of their contribution to the genre, why some are considered seminal films/videos, the influence of both the film/video and the filmmaker/videomaker within a broader societal context, the role music/sound played in these films and the ability to convey this knowledge through participation in class discussion
- 3) The advanced skills needed to produce film/sound for a short documentary film/video while collaborating with the film maker – this may include the further development of audio recording and editing techniques as needed for the projects

Text book/Readings: Aufderheide, Patricia. (2007). *Documentary Film: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press (**recommended but not required**). Additional readings may be required throughout the semester and provided in PDF

Required Hardware/Software: A laptop computer and access to Digital Audio Workstation are required; Da Vinci Resolve a free audio video editor is recommended but not required; Please bring your laptop to every class session.

Class Expectations: One fourth of the grade in this course will be based on analytical assignments related to how music is used in the videos/films being analyzed; the other three quarters will be based on the production of the music being written for documentary projects, which will be produced through multiple assignments, each earning an individual grade, as well as a final grade earned on the documentary work itself. **IMPORTANT:** The expectation is that all necessary composition and technology classes needed to create these projects at a high level have already been completed.

Assignments (description, percentage of overall grade, and grading):

- **Attendance and participation:** Because this class only meets once a week, in addition to short private sessions, it is expected that students will show up, fully prepared to both class and private sessions as scheduled. You will be allowed one unexcused absence for the semester. As per FIU policy, any other absence that is not a documented family or medical emergency, and for which you do not notify the professor within 24-hours of the missed class, will be counted as unexcused. Each unexcused absence after the first will result in a grade reduction of your final grade (A to A-, B+ to B, etc.).

The grade for the class will be based on the following elements/assignments:

- **Analytical Assignments of how sound/music is used in selected documentary films assigned in class and class participation (30%):**
At the beginning of the semester you will be provided with questions outlining an analytical methodology for analyzing how sound and image interact and how this relates to documentary films/videos. You will then apply this methodology to each of the films/videos assigned in class and be able to discuss them in the class. For 3 of the films you will need to complete an analysis in writing and turn in for a grade. The films will be available in the library (some on line) and it is your responsibility to watch each and have your analysis ready for class as per the class schedule. Grading will be based on the

accuracy and completeness of the analysis – each analysis will be worth (5%) of the total grade (3 of them based on the analysis as demonstrated by class participation and the other 3 on the written assignment). Please note that late or incomplete assignments will not be accepted and 0% credit if you are absent.

- **Scoring assignments (70%):** Throughout the semester you will be completing scoring assignments while working with students in the INSPICIO MMC 3932 class and the DIG 4552 course on one introductory interview project in the case of INSPICIO and two documentary video projects in the case of the DIG 4552 Digital Media capstone class. These assignments consist of the following: INSPICIO Interviews (20%), Digital Media class 360 video (20%), Digital Media class documentary (30%) – due dates are suggested on the schedule below but will be finalized throughout the semester. Although Da Vinci Resolve is recommended, the projects can be completed using audio editing software such as Pro Tools, Logic, Digital Performer, and/or any other similar software. Da Vinci Resolve is free and can be downloaded by going to this link and scrolling to the bottom of the page <https://www.blackmagicdesign.com/products/davinciresolve/> in addition there will be a short demo on how the software works to get you started.

The sound files for the assignments in mp3 format can be created by sampling live instruments, ambient sounds, utilizing sound synthesis, MIDI keyboards, synthesizers, etc., recording performers/performances of your notated works on acoustic instruments and any other sound compilation that will be appropriate for each of the visual components of the documentary film. Grading will primarily be based on (1) completing the assignments on time and (2) the feasibility of the integration of the sound work with the images/narration. The composition student’s presentation regarding their assignment to the class as indicated on the schedule below for each assignment will also be considered in the grading.

FIU Grading Scale

Grade	Points Per Credit Hour
A	4.00
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.00
D	1.00
F	0.00

- The point/percentage breakdown is as follows:

• 93-100	A	73-76	C
• 90-92	A-	70-72	C-
• 87-89	B+	67-69	D+

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|---------|----|----------|----|
| • 83-86 | B | 63-66 | D |
| • 80-82 | B- | 60-62 | D- |
| • 77-79 | C+ | 59-below | F |

Ethical Conduct & Plagiarism: Student must follow the Standards of Conduct described in the student handbook (http://www.fiu.edu/~sccr/standards_of_conduct.htm). Students are expected to use all resources, including books, journals, and computers only in legal and authorized ways. Participants are expected to perform individual assignments without consulting each other. Participants in this course are also reminded that materials may not be pasted or paraphrased from printed, electronic or any other sources without appropriate citations and credits. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism and will result in penalties as set forth by University policies.

Cell Phone Policy: Please note that as a courtesy to the student(s) in the class and the instructor, cell phones are to be kept turned off and put away during class. Failure to comply with this policy will result in a warning followed by a half a letter grade reduction in the final course grade for each subsequent offense.

Please note that per the Academic Calendar the last day to drop classes with a DR grade is March 18.

FIU STUDENTS AND FACULTY "STAYING SAFE AND HEALTHY"

In collaboration with the Health, Safety, and Welfare Committee of the FIU Faculty Senate and the Healthy Panthers Council, the Provost encourages each faculty and student to take a proactive role in their safety, personal health, and well-being.

Through viewing the "Staying Safe and Healthy" video series, you will learn:

- How to respond to an active shooter situation
- Care of an unconscious person
- Care of the bleeding person
- Panther's Care Initiative
- How to enhance your personal health and well being

These 3-5 minute videos and related resources can be found for:

- On Campus Students in the Student Starter Kit in Canvas
- 2.0 Fully Online Students in Panther Den in Canvas
- Faculty in the Faculty Starter Kit in Canvas

This video series and related resources can make a difference in promoting the safety and protecting the health of all members of the FIU community. These resources are available any time you have a few minutes to watch them and you can refresh your memory about their content at any point in time. STAYING SAFE AND HEALTHY requires the commitment of each of us as Panthers.

My office is MBUS 439 and office hours are Thursdays 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM at MBUS - other times by appointment; I will also have some times on selected Friday afternoons at the MMC in GL 535 by appointment only.

Phone: 305 535-2617; email: garciao@fiu.edu web: <http://www.orlandojacintogarcia.com>

Please see me if you should have the slightest questions.

COURSE SCHEDULE

1/9 Overview for course and discussion of analytical methodology, review INSPICIO; assignment for 1/16 class download Da Vinci Resolve and bring on your laptops; for 1/23 class analyze INSPICIO videos and visit the links with the unscored videos and select videos from those available ranking them 1-5 with 1 being the one of most interest and 5 the one of least (see attached excel sheet)

INSPICIO web page
<http://inspicio.fiu.edu/>

Tony Succar -- musician, composer, arranger
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10Q6m1GB_To&feature=youtu.be

Jonathan Plutzik -- owner of The Betsy Hotel
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2cG915C4Y8&feature=youtu.be>

Richard Blanco -5th Presidential Inaugural Poet
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jj6v8yTCnsE&feature=youtu.be>

Kerry Sanders -- NBC News
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArhSkz7ydVQ&feature=youtu.be>

1/16 Da Vinci Resolve software an overview with Carlos Fueyo
<https://www.blackmagicdesign.com/products/davinciresolve/>

1/16 5:00 PM - Optional session with Ija Bereznickas, Professor of Animation Vilnius Academy of Arts, Lithuania MBUS 475

1/23 Discuss analysis of INSPICIO videos and selection of projects; for next class contact collaborators in the INSPICIO class and schedule work; analyze Man with a Movie Camera - available streaming from the FIU library (Alexander Street collection – Michael Nyman composer)

1/30 Discuss analysis of Man with a Movie Camera give update on work with INSPICIO scoring; for next class continue work with INSPICIO scoring analyze Grizzly Man available in GL 5th floor QL737.C27 G75 2005 (music by Timothy Treadwell)

2/6 Discuss analysis of Grizzly Man and update to class on work with INSPICIO scoring; for next class continue work with INSPICIO scoring; analyze Harlan County available in GL 5th floor HD5325.M615 H37 2006 (music by various country western folk singers)

2/13 Discuss analysis of Harlan County update to class on final work with INSPICIO scoring; for next class analyze Thin Blue Line available in GL 2nd floor reserve HV6542.T45 2005 (music by Philip Glass)

2/20 Discuss analysis of Thin Blue Line; for next class analyze videos from DIG 4552 and visit the links with the projects taking place - select from those available ranking them 1-5 with 1 being the one of most interest and 5 the one of least:

Affordable Housing: What does it take? short documentary from class

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lVZ2sY88wpQ&t=129s>

Stonybrook: A Fight for Justice and Affordable Housing short documentary from class

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8otqdcE4cQ>

Kanga 360 video documentary from class

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gI89Hqp0VFY&t=19s>

2/27 Discuss analysis of videos from DIG 4552 and finalize the collaborative teams; for next class contact meet collaborative team members and begin working on video project - analyze The Act of Killing available at FIU GL 5th floor NVS 2060 (music by Elin Øyen Vister)

3/13 No Class Spring Break

3/20 Discuss analysis of The Act of Killing and update on collaborative work with DIG class; for next 4 weeks continue collaborative work

3/27 Meetings as needed TBA

4/3 Meetings as needed TBA

4/10 Meetings as needed TBA

4/17 Meetings as needed TBA

4/24 Finals week last meeting TBD