

DOCUMENTING JUSTICE

Fall 2011 / Spring 2012

Documenting Justice is a specialized interdisciplinary course in documentary filmmaking that focuses on topics of social justice. Students devote two semesters to completing the class, which involves study in film theory, documentary history, nonfiction storytelling techniques, and the ethics of documentary and culminates in the creation of an original short documentary film. The class is designed for non-film majors, but those with production experience are encouraged to apply as well.

Documenting Justice: Alabama

The fall semester of the course is dedicated to instruction, exercises, and readings that familiarize students with the fundamentals of video production and their application to documentary. Assignments in production, theory, and criticism help students understand the practical and ethical issues in documentary filmmaking. By the end of the first semester, students will be comfortable with the techniques of production and will select topics for their films.

During the spring semester, students work in pairs to shoot and edit a documentary film. Demonstrating a concern for justice in Alabama, such pieces may focus on an individual, a relationship, an occurrence, an institution, a sub-culture, or a worldview. Students will become well acquainted with their subjects through extensive fieldwork, interviews, and research. In producing the final film, students will have access to state-of-the-art digital video cameras and post-production facilities at the College of Communication & Information Studies. The completed films premiere at a public screening in either Birmingham or Tuscaloosa at the end of the semester.

An award-winning group of filmmakers collaborate as instructors in this team-taught course: **Andy Grace**, director of Documenting Justice and member of the University of Alabama Department of Telecommunication & Film, and **Rachel Morgan**, adjunct instructor at UA and instructor of radio and TV at Lawson State Community College. The course also includes guest lectures from other professionals with expertise in documentary filmmaking.

Documenting Justice: International

Students complete the first semester before travelling, in conjunction with students enrolled in the Alabama section of Documenting Justice. During the spring semester or summer term, students take a camera and travel abroad – developing a film topic, working with their subjects, and capturing footage. During the following fall semester, students edit their films. A public screening is held in Tuscaloosa each November. (**NOTE:** Documenting Justice does not provide funds for international travel. Travel funding and arrangements are the responsibility of the student.)

Eligibility

Documenting Justice is open to any student pursuing a bachelor's or graduate degree in any department or graduate school at the University of Alabama. The course **requires no prior experience in filmmaking or production**. However, students applying for Documenting Justice: International must complete IHP 105: Honors Culture and Human Experience or CIP 200: Introduction to Global Studies prior to travel.

Credit

Undergraduate (400-level) credit for the course is available through UA Telecommunication & Film, Anthropology, New College, and the Honor's College. A 500-level credit is also available through Telecommunication & Film. Class size is limited to **20 students** (16 in the Alabama course and four in the international section) and requires permission of the instructor.

How to apply

Interested students should complete the application below and e-mail it to cesr.ua.edu with the subject line "Documenting Justice Application." Feel free to use additional pages if necessary. **The priority deadline for application is Friday, March 11, 2011**, but early application is encouraged. As applications are received, students will be contacted to schedule an interview with the instructor. If you have further questions, please contact the UA Center for Ethics & Social Responsibility at 205-348-6492.

DOCUMENTING JUSTICE COURSE APPLICATION
Fall 2011 / Spring 2012

Name: _____

Phone: _____ **Address:** _____

E-mail: _____

Current Standing: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior Graduate Student

Major: _____ **Current GPA:** _____

Will you have access to transportation during the 2011-2012 academic year? YES NO
(Answering no does not impact your application.)

Are you interested in: Alabama Doc Justice International Doc Justice Both

If International, where are you planning to study abroad? _____

Please provide the name & e-mail address of an academic reference (a faculty member who teaches one of your current or past classes): _____

On an additional page, please answer the following:

1. In a few sentences, please tell why you are interested in Documenting Justice.
2. Please list three to five courses you have taken that might help inform your experience in the Documenting Justice class (think broadly – these courses need not be in filmmaking or journalism).
3. In your opinion, what are currently the most pressing social issues facing our community and state? (If you are applying for International Doc Justice, you should consider the most pressing social issues facing our global community, and particularly the country or region to which you are planning to travel.)
4. What other time commitments (course loads, extracurricular activities, jobs, etc.) during the academic year could affect your ability to devote an adequate amount of time and energy to this course?

Read and sign:

By signing below, I understand and agree that in order to receive full credit in the Documenting Justice course, I must complete both the fall and spring semesters of the course. I understand and agree that a preliminary grade will be issued in the fall, but a final grade for the course will not be granted until I complete the spring semester. *Dropping the spring semester course will result in a failing grade for the fall semester.*

Signature (Typed name serves as signature if submitting electronically)

Date