

## **PROPOSAL FOR A CERTIFICATE IN DOCUMENTARY PRODUCTION**

**I. Identification of Department(s)/Program(s):** Electronic and Photographic Media  
Department in the School of Communications

**II. Name of proposed major/emphasis/minor/certificate/prefix:** Certificate in Documentary  
Production

**III. A List of all courses and requirements :** See Attachment A

**IV. Catalog copy for all affected changes:** See Attachment A

**V. Discussion of the rationale for your proposal:**

**a. What are the outcomes for the major?** Students who complete the Documentary Production Certificate will have a working knowledge of documentary production and documentary film studies. They will complete courses in media production focusing on documentary work, classes in the history of documentary film and media, and courses that support the theoretical foundations of documentary studies in such areas as anthropology and media studies.

**b. How will these outcomes be assessed?** The Documentary Production Certificate students will complete documentary productions to be screened for public audiences on campus and at film festivals and other venues.

**c. Why is this being proposed? What problem will it address?** Over 100 years ago, the first films screened for a public audience were documentaries. Since that time, documentaries evolved in style and status within the motion picture industry. For many years, documentary cinema has been relegated to a second-class status, particularly in the United States where production funds and distribution sources were focused more on studio narrative films.

The recent critical and financial success of documentary films on an international scale has demonstrated that documentary films are creative and artistic enterprise and can be significant forces for change in politics and culture. The focus on the documentary within the film and media professions has prompted an interest in the creation of more classes focused on documentary film history and production.

This certificate program incorporates a variety of courses in the School of Communications, as well as some course work in the College of Arts and Sciences, to give students a strong liberal arts foundation for documentary studies.

**d. What research has been done and what evidence does the departments/programs have of the need for and interest in it?** Film schools throughout the world have traditionally included documentary films as part of a film school curriculum. Recently, the New School and other

colleges and universities with film/media programs have created programs specifically in documentary production.

**e. How would it fit with departmental philosophy and existing curriculum?**

The Documentary Production Certificate would benefit students majoring in a variety of programs within the School of Communications, specifically Film, Video, Interactive Media, Journalism and Broadcast Journalism majors. With an emphasis on the philosophy of combining theory and practice, the Certificate courses will include media production, film history and media anthropology classes.

**f. How would it fit with the philosophy and existing curriculum of the School/College and the University?**

The Documentary Production Certificate would be available to students majoring in programs from all Colleges and Schools. By completing the certificate courses, students majoring in liberal and fine arts programs will have the opportunity to apply a liberal arts education to the creation of documentary productions, and the courses in the certificate program are a valuable academic complement to course work required for liberal and fine arts majors.

**g. Are there existing courses in other departments/programs which are appropriate for inclusion in this proposal?**

Several courses in the Behavioral and Social Sciences Department and the Communications and Journalism Department are appropriate and are included in the certificate program.

**h. Which sites will it be available on?**

The certificate program will begin on the St. Louis campus, but it will also be potentially available to campuses with basic media production facilities.

**i. If the proposal is for a new prefix, what entity will be responsible for scheduling and evaluating the courses?**

Not applicable.

**VI. Staffing Information:**

**a. What additions or changes in staffing are necessary to implement this new major, emphasis, minor, certificate or prefix ?**

The Documentary Production Certificate program will use existing equipment and staff, as all production courses are currently offered in the program. Faculty will be drawn from current full time faculty as well as adjunct faculty who professionally specialize in documentary filmmaking (including producer/directors from KETC and documentary filmmaker Frank Popper). The department also anticipates the possibility of courses that would be team taught by professors from various academic disciplines (such as Film and Human Rights or Film and Anthropology).

**b. How will this be coordinated?**

The Certificate Program will be coordinated through the Electronic and Photographic Media Department.

**c. Who will co-ordinate this program?**

Professor Kathy Corley, who is also a professional documentary filmmaker.

**VII. Feasibility information:**


**a. What are the resources (space and equipment) necessary for this new major, emphasis, minor, certificate or prefix?**

Existing video camera and editing facilities will be used for coursework.

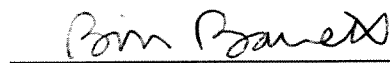
**b. What are the projections for enrollment and growth for this new major, emphasis, minor, certificate or prefix?** The E&PM Department anticipates growth in this certificate program, based on the expressed interest from students and increased enrollments in the Video Documentary Production class, offered each year in the Film/Video programs. Department projections for the first three years of the certificate program indicate that 10-20 students in various majors will complete the certificate requirements. We also anticipate that this certificate program will attract new students to Webster University.

**VIII. What entities (department, college/school) have reviewed and approved this proposal?**

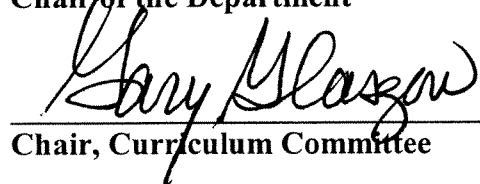
The Certificate Proposal was reviewed and unanimously approved by the Electronic and Photographic Media Department faculty and chair.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean of the Department

1-17-07  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair of the Department

17 Jan 2007  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Curriculum Committee

1/27/2007  
Date

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **CERTIFICATE IN DOCUMENTARY PRODUCTION**

**21 credit hours**

#### **Required core production courses:**

**Six credit hours in one area of media production** (Video I & II; Film I & II; Intro to Interactive Media & Interactive Media Writing)

#### **Required production course:**

- VIDE 4251 Documentary Production 3 hours

#### **Additional Production courses:**

Select two from the following:

- PHOT 2500 Photojournalism - 3 hours
- PHOT 3760 Photo Reportage - 3 hours
- BJRN 3580 Radio News Reporting and Producing - 3 hours
- VIDE 3060 Advanced Video Production – 3 hours
- VIDE 4950 Professional Media Practicum (internship in documentary production at KETC, Double Helix TV, Discovery Channel, etc.) – 3 hours

#### **Theory courses:**

Select two from the following:

- FLST 3170 Topics in Documentary Film Studies - 3 hours\* : any film topics class with a significant documentary focus, including: History of the Documentary, Historical & Social Issues in the Documentary, Ethnographic Filmmaking, etc.
- FLST 3160/PHIL 3110/HRTS 3150/ISTL 2550 Topics: Human Rights & Documentaries - 3 hours
- ANSO 2030 Culture and Communications - 3 hours
- BJRN 2070 History of Broadcasting - 3 hours
- JOUR 2380 History and Principals of American Journalism - 3 hours
- JOUR 3120 Free Expression and the First Amendment - 3 hours
- JOUR 3080 Global Journalism - 3 hours
- JOUR 3190 Topics in Global Journalism - 3 hours

Additional relevant courses may be added with the approval of the Documentary Production Certificate coordinator and Chair of the Electronic and Photographic Media Department.

\*Indicates a new course code, to facilitate degree audits for the certificate.

## CERTIFICATE IN DOCUMENTARY PRODUCTION

Description to precede certificate course listings in catalog:

The Certificate in Documentary Production Certificate is designed to give students from all academic disciplines within the university an opportunity to explore the theory and practice of documentary production and documentary film studies. Students will complete courses in media production focusing on the documentary, classes in the history of documentary film and media, and courses that support the theoretical foundations of documentary studies in such areas as anthropology and media studies.