

# NABA

NUOVA ACCADEMIA  
DI BELLE ARTI

# SUMMMER COURSES

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**A.A. 2023-24**  
**SYLLABUS**

**FILM DOCUMENTARY**

2nd SESSION: July 9th - 19th 2024\*

[www.naba.it](http://www.naba.it)



# FILM DOCUMENTARY

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*E-mail:* [summer@naba.it](mailto:summer@naba.it)

*Course Structure:* 45 hours – 9 lesson days

*ECTS:* 3 ECTS credits\*

\*ECTS credits only awarded to university students or participants who are completing or have completed a university or academic study path

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Participants in this intensive hands-on course will be accompanied by an experienced documentary filmmaker in the conception and production of a short documentary product. The course is structured into three parts: introduction to documentary history and film-making techniques; pre-production and shooting with professional audio and video equipment; analysis and editing of the shot material to realize a rough-cut editing. The course is recommended for students wishing to concretely explore audiovisual production testing the expressive possibility of documentary film making.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Students will familiarize with language and professional technical instruments of documentary film-making, knowing at the same time aspects of Rome otherwise invisible to a visitor.

## **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

This course is intended for students without any academic background in the specific subject area and for students attending their first years of university studies in Art and Design.

## **OUTPUT**

The output of the course is a short rough cut documentary product, which students can bring back home, adding it to their professional or academic portfolio.

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## LIST OF MATERIALS AND TOOLS

A personal hard drive to archive the final product is the only instrument the students need to bring with them.

Professional cameras (Blackmagic Cinema Camera 6k pro and Sony FX30 equipped with professional Canon EF zoom lenses and Cinema lenses) and editing workstation will be provided by NABA.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Class attendance is required for successful completion of the course. Attendance will be taken every class period.

Students should attend every lesson, and try to be in class at least 10 minutes before the beginning of class. On the last day of classes, instructors will issue a Certificate of successful attendance only to all students who completed at least 80% of the course.

## COURSE POLICY

The Faculty of NABA takes Academic integrity seriously. Instances of academic dishonesty such as plagiarism won't be tolerated. Mobile phones will be kept switched off all the time during class. Use of laptop during classes for personal purposes is forbidden.

## TEACHING METHODS

The course is based on a practical laboratory experience. In an environment of continuous confrontation within the group led by the teacher, students will interact with the reality of the city of Rome. They will face the essential steps of writing, filming and editing in order to create an original documentary short film. Teamwork will be essential to enrich everyone's path of creation and every student (thanks also to the reduced number of participants) will personally experiment the different roles needed to work as a professional film crew.

## REFERENCE & RECOMMENDED READINGS

Nichols, B. (2010) Introduction to documentary, (2nd ed.) Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press,

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## Grading

Total number of ECTS assigned for the successful completion of the course: 3 ECTS

### GRADING SYSTEM

GRADING WEIGHTS	GRADING SCALE				
1. Attendance 30%	Excellent = 90-100				
2. Participation and creative process 40%	Good = 80-89				
3. Final work / final presentation 30%	Average = 70-79				
TOTAL 100%	Below Average = 60-69				
	Poor = 59 or below				
	EXCELLENT 90 -100%	GOOD 80 – 89%	AVERAGE 70 – 79%	BELOW AVERAGE 60 – 69%	POOR BELOW 60%
Attendance (30%)	On time, perfect attendance	Seldom late: attended between 95% and 90 % of the course	Occasionally late: attended between 90 % and 85 % of the course	Occasionally late: attended between 85% and 80% of the course	Frequently late, attended less than 80% of the course: <b>FAILED</b>
Participation and Creative Process (40 %)	Demonstrates strong understanding of the topic & thorough, creative research	Shows good grasp of the topic & good research	Exhibits average comprehension of the topic & average research	Shows some awareness of the topic & below average awareness of research	Has shallow insight into the topic & poor grasp of research
Original Project (Final work/ Final presentation) (30%)	Exhibits exceptional analysis of concepts & production of original proposal	Exhibits exceptional analysis of concepts & production of original proposal	Exhibits average analysis of concepts & production of original proposal	Exhibits below average analysis of concepts & production of original proposal	Exhibits poor analysis of concepts & production of original proposal

## Contacts



# FILM DOCUMENTARY

1<sup>st</sup> week

## COURSE SCHEDULE\*

DAY		LESSON-SUBJECT
Day 1 - Tuesday	NABA Staff	<p>Welcome and Registration</p> <p>School and teacher presentation.</p> <p>Short introduction to documentary film genres. Meeting the camera: team building activities with the students in different technical roles.</p> <p>Screening of the documentary film Dark Corner by F. Caramaschi and discussion with students.</p> <p>The three acts structure in documentary films.</p> <p>Character-driven Vs topic-driven narration.</p> <p>Discussing proposals for a possible short film.</p>
Day 2 - Wednesday		<p>Quick lesson about exposing and framing a shot, deciding the right lens, color balance, video codecs and audio recording techniques.</p> <p>Practical exercises with the filming equipment both in studio and outside (NABA terrace).</p> <p>Reciprocal interviews between the students about their expectations from this class and this experience in the immortal town.</p> <p>Collective discussion of a short documentary concept in the class.</p> <p>Developing a possible production plan to start the documentary storytelling process.</p>

\*The Academy reserves the right to:

- amend or cancel courses, change course location or substitute course leaders, professors, guests, visits location;
- make any changes that in our absolute discretion we consider necessary or appropriate for reasons of operational efficiency or due to any other circumstances that are beyond our control.

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## Day 3 - Thursday

Practical exercises in the school studio and organizing the troupe.

Field work experience: shooting outside the school to test the group coordination and roles.

Analyzing the first footage realized

Needs and issues of logging the footage and transcribing interviews.

Scheduling future shootings in the area.

## Day 4 - Friday

Field work: filming on location following the production plan.

Uploading, analyzing, logging and transcribing the realized footage.

Refining the short concept and the audio-visual narration.

Emotional effects of images, live sound bites and music soundtrack

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# FILM DOCUMENTARY

2<sup>st</sup> week

## COURSE SCHEDULE\*

DAY	LESSON-SUBJECT
Day 5 - Monday	Meeting in class to collect equipment and continue the shooting following the production plan (rotating the crew roles).  Back in class, uploading and logging the realized footage.
Day 6 - Tuesday	Meeting in class to collect equipment and continue the shooting following the production plan.  Back in class, uploading and logging the realized footage.
Day 7 - Wednesday	In the school studio shooting of final interviews between students about their achievements.  Uploading these last interviews and organizing the editing project, starting the selection of the footage.
Day 8 - Thursday	Editing from the first selection of the footage to a first rough cut.  Refine the editing to obtain emotional effects and a compelling visual narration: how to invent a true story.
Day 9 - Friday	Final editing and downloading the edit-ed rough cut to the personal drives of the students  Closing remarks.

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