

## Test Review Documentary

### Bring Scantron # 4521

In addition to the following material, the test will cover information on all handouts and discussions.

### DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY

Demonstrates the need for change  
Based on precepts of photojournalism  
Social conscience of photography

Unlike journalists, documentarians:

- often demonstrate a bias
- spend longer on stories (months or years)

### DSLR versus A CAMCORDER

#### DSLR, the good:

Cheaper / more accessible than prosumer camcorder.

More cinematic look:

- larger sensor
- improved color, detail, exposure control
- larger pixels (less noise)
- shallow depth of field
- can use longer lenses

#### DSLR, the bad

Uses LCD/Live view for focus and composition  
Auto focus inconsistent  
Often lose high-value detail in video  
Sensor can overheat, means short recording times

Sound

- quality is poor
- picks up camera handling noises
- often only mono, not stereo
- audio monitoring often missing

### MEMORY CARDS CHARACTERISTICS

Speed/ Class:

Number of megabytes per second (Mb/ sec.) which can be transferred.

- Class 2 SD cards write 2 Mb/ sec.
- Class 10 SD cards write 10 Mb/ sec.

Storage/Capacity

Number of images / or amount of video that can be saved. Minimum storage for video: 16GB cards

### DSLR Exposure and settings

High definition (high rez.) video, most common options:

- HD 1280 x 720
- Full HD 1920 x 1080
- best quality, largest frame size that most current HDSLR cameras offer.

Frame rate: rate at which camera produces unique consecutive images, expressed in frames per second – FPS.

Turn in-camera sharpening off, to reduce contrast.  
Use manual exposure settings, to avoid loss of high-value detail.

Shutter speed

Must be constant.

Should be twice the camera's frame rate:

- 24 fps = 1/50 sec. — “movie look”
- 30 fps = 1/60 sec. — a “TV look”
- 60 fps = 1/125 sec. — a “video look”

Adjust audio manually, if possible turn **off** auto gain. (Automatic Gain Control or AGC)

### Accessories

Neutral-density filter reduces the amount of light entering the camera

Used to

- Adjust depth of field
- Reduce exposure on bright portion of a scene

Matte Box

- Lens hood, shields lens from direct light
- Used to hold filters

Follow Focus

A control mechanism for focusing on DSLR, film & video cameras - variety of designs & prices.

### Audio

Two of several microphone types:

- Dynamic Microphone
  - Often hand held
  - For interviews or, more often, vocals
  - Batteries not required
  - Must be very close to subject
- Condenser Microphone
  - Requires Batteries
  - More sensitive than dynamic mics
  - Prone to problems due to:
    - speaker's mouth position
    - popping & crackling

## Microphone pickup patterns

1. Omnidirectional microphones:
  - a. cover a large field of sound.
  - b. effective if subject turns head while speaking
  - c. microphone type in-camera DSLR

One type of omnidirectional mic:

Lapel Mics (lavalieres):  
can be wired or wireless  
mic is attached to clothing

2. Directional microphones  
less sensitive to the side & rear

One type of directional mic:

Shotgun Mic:  
predominantly picks up audio in  
a single direction

3. Cardioid microphones  
"Heart-shaped," pick-up pattern  
reduces pickup from side & rear  
good for avoiding feedback.

## Built-in DSLR Mics

- a. Omnidirectional
- b. Often not possible to adjust sound volume levels.
- c. Records camera noise: focus motors  
camera-handling

## Waveforms:

A visual representations of the  
fluctuations in the volume of any clip.

## Decibel (dB):

A measure of the intensity of sound.

Range:

- 30 dB very quiet
- + 6 dB very loud

Optimum levels for voice: -3dB to -12dB  
Never over 0 dB

## Windscreen

Reduces clicks, pops, hiss, wind & motion noises  
from microphone used outdoors. Made of foam  
or artificial fur ("deadcat").

Low cut filter (also called a high pass filter)

Microphone setting. Turn off indoors, on out-  
doors.

## Royalty-free

The right to use copyrighted material without  
paying royalties for *each use*. Most royalty free  
music/sound requires some initial payment.

## Ducking

Adjusts volume of audio clips playing  
simultaneously so that one plays more  
loudly than the other.

## Voice-over

Voice whose source is neither visible nor  
implied to be off screen.

## Talking head:

On-camera interview that typically  
shows the speaker from the shoulders up.

## Room tone

The "silence" recorded at a location when no  
dialog is spoken. Used in final edit for  
seamless dialog.

## Slipping sound:

Detaching the audio portion of the original  
video, to play with other visuals.

## Terms

### Jello Effect

caused by CMOS sensor's rolling shutters  
occurs when:

- a. camera is panned too quickly
- b. photographing fast-moving objects

### Jello Solution

don't whip pan - record more slowly  
use a lens with image stabilization

Temporal duration: time covered by a story.

## Temporal Continuity

Assures that people / things  
don't move randomly in time

## Spatial Continuity

Assures that people / things  
don't move randomly in space

## Violation of aesthetic distance

Something that breaks  
audience engagement with a story.  
(Also called breaking the 4th wall.)

## EDITING

### Continuity editing

- a. predominant style of editing
- b. smooths over the inherent  
discontinuity of editing process
- c. establishes a logical coherence  
between shots.

## Cut - transitions

Joins two video clips or still images.  
In most cases, cut on action/ movement

## Jump Cut

- a. two sequential shots of same subject from slightly different camera positions
- b. causes subject to "jump" in a discontinuous way.

## Cutaway

helps to avoid jump cut  
used as a distraction  
used to cover a break in action.  
used to speed-up action

## Parallel Cut or Cross Cut

joining 2 parallel actions that are happening simultaneously

## Match Cut

Joins 2 scenes with similar elements to reinforce a symbolic or visual relationship -- i.e. Hitchcock's *Psycho*, with blood shown flowing down the shower drain, then a cut to a shot of murder victim's eye.

## Split Edit

Bridges two shots with sound.  
Audio may proceed or follow video.

## Fade

A shot gradually fades to (or from) a single color, usually black or white.  
Often used to denote a change in location or time.

## Dissolve / Crossfade

A gradual fade from one shot to the next.

## Ellipsis

When unnecessary action is removed by editing or while shooting.

## DIRECTORS / PHOTOGRAPHERS

### Carol Guzy

Documentarian and photojournalist,  
Washington Post, Class viewed Sierra Leone Maternity Hospital series.

### Walker Evans

Best known for his Farm Security Administration photographs documenting the effects of the Great Depression. Class viewed black and white New York Subway series, shot with a hidden camera.

### Bruce Davidson

Documentary photographer, known for many projects. Class viewed New York Subway series.

### Lauren Greenfield

Known for exploring the influence of popular culture on youth. Class viewed *Kids & Money*.

### Eugene Richards

Known for diverse topics such as drug addiction, hospital conditions & wounded combat veterans. Class viewed *War Is Personal*, focus on people whose lives have been profoundly affected by the conflict in Iraq.

### Mary Ellen Mark

Photojournalist, advertising photographer, documentarian. Known for documentary work in India. Class viewed *Falkland Road*, prostitutes in India.

### Sebastião Salgado

Social documentarian known for documenting the existence of displaced people around the world.

### Errol Morris

*The Thin Blue Line* reveals perjured testimony and a botched investigation of a Dallas police office's murder.

### Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy & Daniel Junge

*Saving Face* about acid attacks on women in Pakistan and the doctor who is helping them to heal. 2012 Academy Award for Best Short Subject Documentary

### Frontline

*Rape in the Fields* collaborative effort with Center for Investigative Reporting at U.C. Berkeley Grad School of Journalism about sexual exploitation of undocumented female workers.

### Rebecca Cammisa

*Which Way Home* follows unaccompanied children traveling from Mexico & Central America to the U.S., on top of a train.

