

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:

- a. often demonstrate a bias
- b. 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

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

Matte Box

- a. Lens hood, shields lens from direct light
- b. 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:

1. Dynamic Microphone

Often hand held

For interviews or, more often, vocals

Batteries not required

Must be very close to subject

2. 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:

- cover a large field of sound.
- effective if subject turns head while speaking
- 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

- Omnidirectional
- Often not possible to adjust sound volume levels.
- 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:

- camera is panned too quickly
- 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

- predominant style of editing
- smooths over the inherent
discontinuity of editing process
- 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.

