

## **Documentary Filmmaking Course Goals and Expectations**

### **Watershed Community School Fall Semester 2007**

Documentary Filmmaking, or Nonfiction Filmmaking, has become a popular and accessible medium for people to express views, educate, and share their stories. This course will explore the steps necessary to create an effective film, from story development to the technical aspects of shooting and editing. Learning how a film is made, and making one yourself, is the best way to understand, appreciate, and interpret the films you watch. What is the filmmaker trying to tell you? Trying to make you think? Feel? Why? Through whose “lens” are we getting this information? Why are these questions important? Roll camera and let’s find out.

#### **Course Goals**

- **Documentary Pre-production, Production, Post-production** - write, shoot, and edit a short documentary video.
- **Conducting the Interview** - in addition to the technical aspects of setting up an interview for camera and sound, learn how to design questions and conduct a professional interview.
- **Documentary Appreciation** - understand the structure and language of non-fiction filmmaking to become more media literate, a smarter “watcher of films”.
- **Critique Skills** - strengthen the ability to give and receive constructive criticism in a creative setting.

#### **Expectations for Credit**

- Students will write a treatment, a summary of their film, before shooting.
- Each student will be required to keep a production book, (preferably a three ringed binder). All handouts, project notes, assignments, and class notes will be organized and kept in the production book. There will be specific dates, approximately every three weeks, when production books will be submitted and checked that its contents are up to date and all required work is completed.
- Each student will need to conduct at least two on camera interviews.
- Respecting the collaborative nature of filmmaking, students will be expected to help each other out when asked and available.
- Throughout the semester students will be asked to watch films outside of school and offer critique/review to the class, keeping notes about each film in their production books.
- A written film review will be due at the end of the semester.
- Students are expected to participate in class critiques with respect to specified critique guidelines.
- Students are expected to attend every class (with the usual exceptions i.e. illness, emergency, etc.) and complete all assigned work.