University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Academy of film, PG_00179403		
Field of study	German Studies, Polish Studies, Romance and Iberian Studies, Applied Linguistics, Logopedics, Scandinavian Studies		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025	Academic year of realisation of subject	2025/2026
Education level	Master's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	1	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	2	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Division of Film and Media -> Institute of Culture Studies -> Faculty of Languages -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr hab. Paweł Sitkiewicz, prof. UG	
	Teachers		

Lesson types

Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30

E-learning hours included: 0.0

Learning activity and number of study hours

Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
Number of study hours	30	2.0	18.0	50

Subject objectives

Basic definitions, concepts and problems related to contemporary documentary film. The most important aesthetic trends in documentary and film essay. Documentary work in practice. The place of documentary studies in the broad context of socio-cultural aspects of the world history.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	- knows the contemporary history of documentary film, including political and social problems, as well as cultural changes; - knows the conventions of documentary cinema: genres, stylistic conventions, documentary methods, narrative patterns; - knows how to use terms related to film studies, cultural studies and anthropology; - can prepare an essay on documentary cinema; - recognizes and appreciates the importance of social problems and cultural changes discussed during classes.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK3] text preparation/written work

Subject contents

The classic documentary school and its contemporary modifications (methods, authors, narrative structures). Processing strategies and attempts to objectify reality. Blurring the boundaries - a documentary film as a feature film, a fiction film as a document. Contemporary documentary essay - themes, forms, narratives. From ethnographic film to visual anthropology - science between film and art. Creations and self-creations - semiotics of a film character in documentary cinema. Documentary film as a political tool and the "fourth estate". Documentary cinema and the problems of the modern world.

Prerequisites and co-requisites		
Assessment methods and criteria		

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
written essay or video-essay	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	M. Przylipiak, Poetyka kina dokumentalnego, Gdansk-Słupsk 2004. D. Bordwell, K. Thompson, Film Art. Sztuka Filmowa, Warszawa 2010, chapter "Film dokumentalny".
	Supplementary literature	M. Przylipiak, Kino bezpośrednie 1960-1963, Gdansk 2007. Metody dokumentalne w filmie, pod red. D. Rode i M. Pienkowskiego, Łódź 2013. S.C. Bernard, Film dokumentalny: Kreatywne opowiadanie, Warszawa 2011. K. Karabasz, Bez fikcji: Z notatek filmowego dokumentalisty, Warszawa 1985. A. Kołodyński, Tropami filmowej prawdy, Warszawa 1981. Klucze do rzeczywistości: Szkice i rozmowy o polskim filmie dokumentalnym po roku 1989, red. M. Hendrykowska, Poznan 2005. L. Zonn, O montażu w filmie dokumentalnym, Warszawa 1986. J. Bławut, Bohater w filmie dokumentalnym, Łódz 2010. S. Bruzzi, New Documentary: A Critical Introduction, London 2000. K. Żyto, Mezalians. Co stało się z dokumentem w ponowoczesnym świecie?, [w:] (Nie)obecne granice: Szkice o obliczach transgresji, red. Katarzyna Kuropatwa, Dagmara Rode, Kraków 2003. Kwartalnik Filmowy 1998, nr 24 (nr tematyczny na temat filmu dokumentalnego). E. Barnouw, Documentary: a history of non fiction film, New York 1993. P. Biliński, Współczesne oblicza dokumentalizmu osobistego, "Panoptikum" 2013 nr 12. M. Cunningham, The art of the documentary: ten conversations with leading directors, cinematographers, editors and producers, Berkele 2005. J. Hučková, Nieme kino dokumentalne, [w:] Kino nieme. Historia kina, tom 1, red. Tadeusz Lubelski, Iwona Sowińska, Rafał Syska, Universitas 2009, s. 779-807. B. Kosińska-Kripner, Mock-documentary a dokumentalne fałszerstwa, "Kwartalnik Filmowy" 2006, nr 54/55.
	eResources addresses	

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Issues, questions and tasks depend on the films discussed during classes. Each semester, the Documentary Film Academy proposes a new set of films: these are the premiere titles and the most recognized films in each season. The tasks usually revolve around topics such as: the process of creating a film, its meaning and form, its connection with the problems of the modern world; documentary film as a pretext to understand cultural, social and political issues.
Work placement	Not applicable

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