Weekly Assignments

These weekly assignments should be completed before the beginning of each class. They should be typed and properly presented. They will be turned with each of the three exams for this course – e.g., weeks 3 to 6, with Exam 1. The homework is part of the grade for attendance and participation.

Week 3: September 10, 2018

1. What is the address of the Los Angeles Public Library closest to your home? If you are not yet a member, please become one. Bring proof of membership to class.

2. If you subscribe to a streaming service like Netflix, Amazon Prime or Hulu, explore its catalogue, and find 10 documentaries, or documentaries series that you would like to watch. List their titles alphabetically, including year of release and its director. Cut and paste the description provided by the catalogue.

If you do not subscribe to any of these services, you can fulfill the assignment by exploring the catalogue of the Los Angeles Public Library.

Your document should look like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year of production and director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Read and outline chapters 1 and 2 of the textbook, *A New History of the Documentary Film*, by Betsy A. McLane (2012), available from the college bookstore. If you don’t have it by week 3, read and outline the entry on documentary cinema from the *Schirmer Encyclopedia of Film*.

There is a PDF of this encyclopedia in the Dropbox folder for this class. You can access it by clicking the following link: [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2gnu7c478mk2isu/AABrJw1o5FdJJm6KBUpK7j5Aa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2gnu7c478mk2isu/AABrJw1o5FdJJm6KBUpK7j5Aa?dl=0)

You will notice that this Dropbox contains the readings for this course not available from the class website.

4. Find and transcribe the definition of documentary in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, available online. Cite this source using the MLA format, 8th edition. This document is also available from the class website.
Week 4: September 17, 2018

1. Read and outline chapter 3 of the textbook, A New History of the Documentary Film, by Betsy A. McLane (2012), available from the college bookstore. If you don’t have it by week 3, read and outline the portion on Soviet propaganda and documentary from the Schirmer Encyclopedia of Film.

2. In no more than two paragraphs describe the Russian Revolution, citing the source of your information. In the next paragraph, note how long the Soviet Union lasted, and the causes of its demise. Cite the source of your information.

Week 5: September 24, 2018

1. Read and outline chapter 4 of the textbook on European avant-garde films of the 1920s.

2. Using an encyclopedia or any other scholarly resource, write very short biographies of either Walter Ruttmann, Fernand Léger or Joris Ivens, including a short reference to the film of the director we will be viewing in class: Berlin, Symphony of a Great City (1927), Ballet mécanique (1924) and Regen (1929).

3. Watch the documentary Turksib (1929, dir. Viktor Turin) in YouTube. It is available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZSSfhArp0g
We will talk about it in class, to complete the panorama of Soviet documentary in the 1920s.

Week 6: October 1, 2018

1. Read and outline chapters 5 and 6 of the textbook on John Grierson and the British Documentary movement; and documentary in the U.S. in the 1930s.

2. After reading these chapters, write no more than two paragraphs about the importance of Johan Grierson in the development of the documentary movement in Great Britain, and Pare Lorentz in the U.S. Note how important it was that these British and American documentaries were sponsored and financed by their respective governments.

Week 8: October 15, 2018

1. Read and outline the portion of chapter 7 of our textbook that discusses German propaganda film in the 1930s and 1940s.

2. Using the Encyclopedia Britannica online, or any other encyclopedia available through the Mission College library, find and read a biography of German filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl.

3. Do the same to find and read an article on the documentary Olympia (1938), directed by this filmmaker.
Week 9: October 22, 2018

1. Read and outline the portion of chapter 7 of our textbook that discusses World War II and the use of documentary by the U.S. government.

2. Using the databases you are now familiar with, find, print out and read an article on the Why We Fight series produced by Frank Capra.

3. List the key names of filmmakers and informational/propaganda films made during the war effort.

Week 10: October 29, 2018

1. Read and outline the portion of chapter 7 that discusses documentary filmmaking in Europe after WWII.

2. Using any of the databases of the library, or the LA Public Library, find an article that discusses Night and Fog and its importance in the history of documentary.

Week 13: November 19, 2018

1. Outline chapters 8, 9 and 11 of the class textbook.

2. Make a list of the key films and filmmakers of Direct Cinema in the U.S.

3. Find out and summarize in no more than two paragraphs the concept of Cinéma Vérité – its origins, key films and filmmaker.

Week 14 & 15: Due December 3, 2018

1. Outline chapter 13 of the textbook.

2. Outline chapter 14 of the textbook.