

Documentary Film and the City



THE TRENTON PROJECT

This seminar uses non-fiction film to explore issues facing the post-industrial American city. Students will study the evolution of documentary methodology and apply these techniques hands-on, collaborating on short films about the city of Trenton. They will establish relationships with subjects, gather observational footage, conduct interviews, and weave narrative in a visual medium. Students will gain a greater understanding of urban history and the challenges cities face today, as well as a foundation in the practical and theoretical issues of documentary.

For more information see www.thetrentonproject.com and www.princeton.edu/cbli/.

HOW TO APPLY

Open to Sophomores and Juniors. Interested students should apply by submitting a brief (two paragraph) email to the instructor at acarson@princeton.edu. Students should demonstrate not only their interest in the topic but also their ability to responsibly conduct fieldwork with documentary subjects and collaborate with fellow students. Some experience with photography, video, sound recording, or video editing is useful, but not required. Preliminary class list will be sent on April 20th.

FILMS

The Man With a Movie Camera Dziga Vertov
The City, Ralph Steiner; Willard Van Dyke, Lewis Mumford
Crisis in Levittown, Lee Bobker/Lester Becker
Chronicle of a Summer, Jean Rouch and Edgar Morin
Black Power Mixtapes 1967-1975, Göran Olsson
The Pruitt-Igoe Myth, Chad Friedrichs
Welfare Frederick Wiseman
Roger and Me, Michael Moore
AKA Don Bonus, Spencer Nakasako, Sokly Ny
Love and Diane, Jennifer Dworkin
The Interrupters, Steve James and Alex Kotlowitz

READING

Gillette, Howard *Camden After the Fall*
Kramer, Mark and Wendy Call *Telling True Stories*
Massey, Douglas and Nancy Denton *American Apartheid*
Nichols, Bill, *Introduction to Documentary*
Simon, David and Edward Burns *The Corner*
Sontag, Susan, *On Photography*
Wilson, William Julius *When Work Disappears*
Wilkerson, Isabel *The Warmth of Other Suns*