University Studies
Cluster Proposal Cover Sheet
2004-2005

Cluster: Community Studies
Title of course: Intro to Documentary Methods
Course Number: USP 399
Proposing Faculty: Richard White
Cluster Coordinator: Sy Adler

Cluster Course to New Cluster
Other clusters this course is assigned to:

Non 'U' course proposed to Cluster Removal

UNST Committee-- PASS: Yes [ ] No [ ][ ]
If no, reason:

UCC Committee-- PASS: Yes [ ] No [ ][ ]
If no, reason:
1- THE COURSE

A. COURSE TITLE, NUMBER, AND CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Introduction to Documentary Methods – USP 399U

Introduces and demonstrates the application of techniques and approaches of documentary research to community studies. Techniques include collecting, making, and interpreting documentary photographs, collecting and interpreting oral histories, locating published and unpublished documents, and research and narrative writing. Of particular interest will be the range of opportunities to investigate the family, buildings, neighborhoods, institutions, and communities as a whole.

B. DEVELOPMENT: This is a new course under development.

C. AVAILABILITY: This course will be offered Winter Term annually.

D. PREREQUISITES: None other than UNST 220A – Understanding Communities

2- COURSE OUTLINE:

A. Detailed Outline: See Attached

B. Preliminary Reading List:
   “Indivisible” (book and online) Center for Creative Photography, The University of Arizona.

C. Instructor: Richard White

3- GENERAL EDUCATION GOALS.

A. COURSE CONTENT & SUITABILITY FOR THE CLUSTER. The Community Studies cluster courses explore the nature of the communities we live in, whether defined spatially or as a set of ties based on common interest. It also explores how community need, individual rights, and social responsibility converge to create livable, sustainable communities. Livability and sustainability may be addressed along the many dimensions of community including psychological, physical, social, economic, and political well-being. The goal of this course is to provide an understanding of the research process that precedes modern audio-visual documentary productions and provide students with the basic skills necessary to construct an effective community research strategy. This course will explore various approaches to community research issues using documentary method. It will engage students to examine the importance of identity, place, community, culture and community building using documentary research. Ultimately, the students of this course will develop the skills related to documentary expression to explore the theoretical basis of community-building.
B. UNST GOALS.

i  *Inquiry and Critical Thinking:* Students will use basic documentary research methods to examine the forces and dynamics that have shaped U.S. American city life. Attention will be given to the political, economic, and social factors and students will be challenged to discover how their own experiences and discoveries inform their understanding of the theories.

ii  *Communication:* Students will be required to produce written, visual, and oral presentations in class and for public consumption. In addition, students will facilitate class discussion and research.

iii  *Diversity of Human Experience:* Students will be challenged to examine theories and practices of urban life within the context of their own personal and community experience. In addition students will use documentary research methods to explore the texture and complexity of urban community life along its many dimensions.

iv  *Ethical Issues and Social Responsibility:* The themes of inquiry used in this course expose issues and processes that encourage social responsibility and a sense of community. Assignments will call for analysis of personal responsibility for developing oneself as a contributing member of society; and as a researcher who must portray the stories of others fairly and accurately.

C. CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT: Teaching strategies will follow the basic cycle of skill development, fieldwork, reflection/evaluation, and re-conceptualization of documentary methods as a research tool to further knowledge and serve the community.

i  Each documentary research method technique or skill developed in the classroom will be accompanied by a field-based assignment and followed up by student and instructor evaluation and critique.

ii  Students will be encouraged to clarify their motives for using documentary research methods and how they believe their essays can or will serve the community.

iii  Students will work in small teams of two or three to produce a series of documentary essays on a particular topic of interest related to community.

iv  Students will create an end-of-term product incorporating some means of publishing their work (e.g., web site, photo exhibit, or video essay) and invite the public to see these publications and hear presentations of student research experience and an analysis of their discoveries.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tentative Course Outline: Documentary Methods</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Topic</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to the Course, Research Models and Strategies</td>
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<td>Designing a Research Strategy; Ethical issues in Documentary Research</td>
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<td>Making Documentary Photographs and Interpreting Extant Photographs</td>
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<td>Collecting Oral Histories, Community Folklore, and the Art of Interviewing, &amp; sound recording</td>
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<td>Introduction to Video: story-board, camera techniques, equipment, &amp; resources</td>
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<td>Introduction to Computer editing of Audio and Video</td>
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<td>Documents, Artifacts, Sociofacts, Mentifacts, Landscapes &amp; Buildings</td>
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<td>Project updates, discoveries, difficulties, first-drafts</td>
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<td>Research Writing, Narrative Writing, the Particular and the Universal</td>
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<td><strong>Week 10</strong> Exploring Community Team Presentations</td>
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<td><strong>Final</strong> Exploring Community Team Presentations</td>
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*All Assignments are due on Monday unless otherwise specified.*
PROPOSING FACULTY: RICHARD L. WHITE

COURSE TITLE AND NUMBER: INTRODUCTION TO DOCCUMENTARY METHODS
USP 379U

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OBTAIN CHAIR AND CLUSTER COORDINATOR SIGNATURES
BEFORE SUBMITTING TO UNIVERSITY STUDIES OFFICE

DEPARTMENT CHAIR(S): [Signature] . DATE: 2/4/03

[Signature] . DATE: ________

CLUSTER COORDINATOR: [Signature] . DATE: 1/31/03

All changes to Clusters must be approved by PSU’s Senate Curriculum Committee.

THE ORIGINAL + 12 COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL
MUST BE RECEIVED AT UNIVERSITY STUDIES (CH 163)
BY OCTOBER 31, 2002

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COURSE APPROVED FOR CLUSTER INCLUSION

CHAIR, CLUSTER COORDINATORS: __________________________ . DATE: __________

CHAIR, UNST COMMITTEE: __________________________ . DATE: __________.