Coms 133 Documentary Film

CSUS Spring 2022

***Mid-Term Study Guide***

1. ***Documentary Film Lectures***:
2. Who was John Grierson and why is he important in the study of documentary film?
3. What are the three common assumptions of documentary film, explain them, and relate them to one of the films we’re seen in class this semester.
4. What four factors bring about changes in documentary film. Please explain each.
5. Please explain the following periods, movements, and the countries involved. Be very detailed.
6. 1920s and early 1930s.
7. 1930’s
8. 1950’s
9. 1960’s
10. 1970s and 1980s
11. What are the six ***Modes*** of documentary film? Explain each. Think of the films we have watched this semester (*The Times of Harvey Milk, The Donut King, Marwencol, Hoop Dreams, The Man with the Movie Camera, and Hospital*).

Into which mode would you place each film and why? (Note: some of these films might fit into not just one, but a couple of modes.)

1. ***The Times of Harvey Milk***:
2. Harvey speculated that Dan White was “one of us.” A bisexual man? A closeted gay man? What do you think? Is such speculation warranted? If so, why? If not, what was he referring to?

2. Harvey was always confronted with threats to his life; written threats, implied threats, and innuendos. This is clear throughout the film. Dan White said that he

felt threatened, too. What do you think was most threatening to him?

1. ***Cambodia Lecture***:
2. Please explain the history of Cambodia before the Khmer Rouge came to power.
3. Please explain when the Khmer Rouge came to power, how long were they in power, who was their leader, what were their polices, what were their atrocities, and what led to their downfall.
4. ***The Donut King***:
5. What does this film have to say about the Issues facing immigrants trying to adapt to the United States culture?
6. What does this film have to say about love, appreciation, and forgiveness?
7. What does this film have to say about First vs. Second generation immigrants?
8. ***Marwencol***:
9. What does this film have to say about the resilience of the human spirit? Relate it to the film.
10. Do you think Mark Hogancamp was better off before or after the attack? Why?
11. ***Hoop Dreams***:

1. What did you think of the Coach Pingatore at St. Joseph’s? Compare and contrast Coach Pingatore to the Coach Bedford.

2.How do William’s and Arthur’s families help and/or hurt

them? (Note: This is really two questions; one for

William, and one for Arthur).

1. ***Man with a Movie Camera***:
2. Did any of the film images appear to be distinctly Russian? Without knowing the film was made in the U.S.S.R, would you have been able to place the setting?
3. Where any of the film scenes shocking or surprising, overriding your preconceptions of 1920s’ Soviet Union?

3.In which ways does *Man with a Movie Camera* function

as a Soviet propaganda film?

1. ***Navy Seal Lecture***:
2. What are the seven mental qualities of successful Navy Seal recruits? Explain why each would be important in combat.
3. Out of 1,000 recruits trained each year, what percentage makes it through the training and what are the main factors in recruits not completing training?

(Note: the term for a recruit requesting to quit training is DOR [Drop on Request]. If a recruit wants to quit, they must wait until they are back (after an evolution in the ocean, pool, or obstacle course) on the “grinder” (asphalt exercise yard), ring a bell three times, and request to quit. If the instructors grant their request, the recruit takes off their numbered combat helmet, and set it down on the grinder beside a line of helmets of other DORs.) PS: This note has nothing at all to do with the test! …I just thought it was interesting ;-)

1. ***The Dawn Wall***:
2. Apply the seven traits of Navy SEALs (from the Navy Seal lecture) to Tommy Caldwell. Please state each trait and how specifically through the film how Tommy embodied each trait.
3. ***Hospital***:

Based on the **Observational Mode** lecture, how would you describe how this film’s *Common Use, Potential Ethical Issues*, and *Frequent Goals* are represented and handled throughout the film. Do they stay the same or change over time? Please give detailed examples.