

**Module Title:** Documentary – Theory and Practice

**Module Code:** FLM501

**Credit Value:** 15

**Level:** 5

**Pre-requisite modules:**

### **Content Description**

This module requires students to put theory into practice by cultivating a sense of the history and theory of documentary alongside the chance to make a short documentary film. The first part of the module will chart the historical development of documentary filmmaking through the examination of several case studies ranging from the early twentieth century to the present day, with the focus on issues of truth, ethics, technique and creativity. The second part of the module requires you to produce a short documentary film that engages with four key issues related to documentary filmmaking: 1) locating the truth you want to convey; 2) ensuring that you adhere to an ethical code whilst producing your film; 3) engaging with storytelling, exposition, visual and structuring techniques, including considering how meaning is made in post-production and 4) exploring creative formal approaches appropriate to your film.

### **Module Aims**

On the completion of this module students will have:

- Gained an understanding of the historical development of documentary and the ability to evaluate individual documentary films in relation to theoretical issues located around questions of fact, ethics, narrative and editing
- Attained the ability to engage critically with own work in planning, production and post-production stages
- To grasp the interrelatedness of theory and practice through reflection on own filmmaking and examination of the work of other documentary filmmakers
- Demonstrate personal qualities (such as independent learning, writing and researching to a high level) and transferable skills (such as negotiation/working

effectively with others, communication, objective-setting, planning and creativity) attained through independent study, film production, essay writing and seminar presentations.