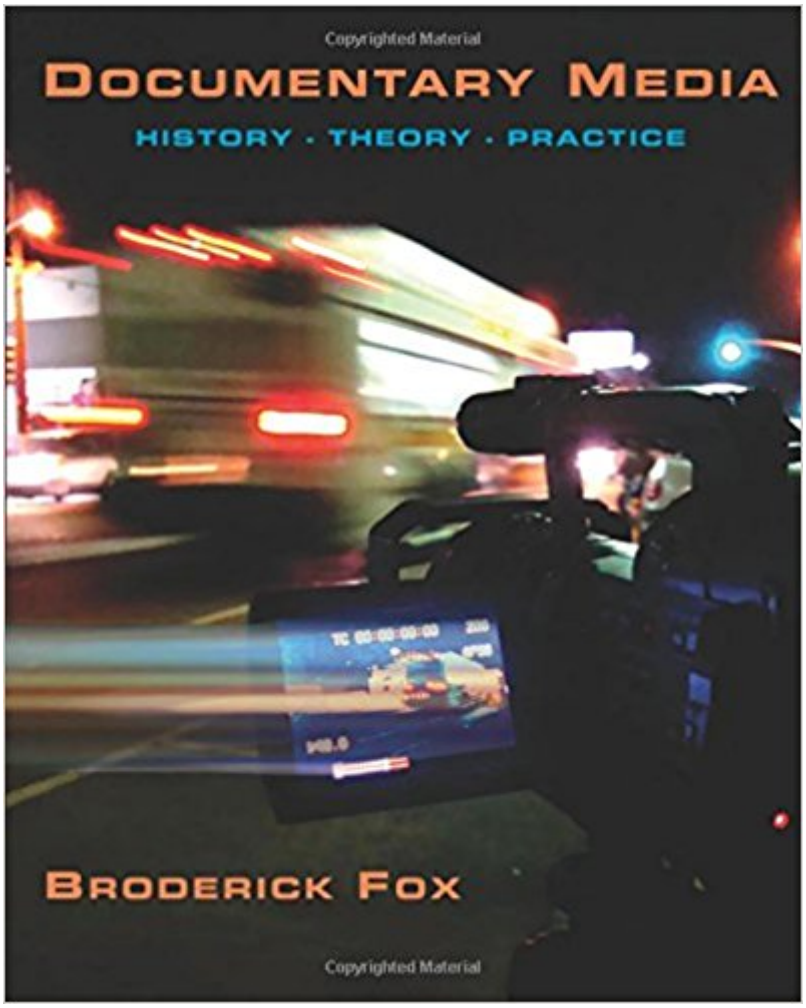
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Documentary Media: History, Theory, Practice



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Synopsis

Documentary Media: History, Theory, Practice facilitates the study of documentary media, its changing forms, and diverse social functions. Fox provides balanced and accessible coverage of the historical, critical, and the practical aspects of documentary media without mandating specialized skills sets in students or access to costly technology. For practitioners and students alike, Documentary Media lays out fundamental concepts and production processes needed to contribute to the contemporary production of non-fiction media in the digital age. Each chapter engages students by challenging traditional assumptions about documentary form and function, posing critical and creative questions, and offering historical and contemporary examples. Additionally, each chapter closes with an "Into Practice" section that assists readers in applying the chapter's concepts. Fox aims to help the student establish a complete treatment, aesthetic plan, and pre-production strategy for their own documentary project.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book offers the following key features: Into Practice sections (each chapter) help readers to watch and analyze media, ideate and develop their own project proposal, and experiment with production using whatever technology is at their disposal. Practical examples and advice about various production scenarios are offered in each chapter, including assignable production exercises that do not assume access to a professional, unattainable roster of equipment. With over 250 documentary frames and illustrations, the use of images to show multiple perspectives and facets referenced in media projects and visually explicate concepts and nuances a single still would never

be able to depict is unprecedented in the discipline. Production work is grounded in historical context throughout the text. Theory and concepts are made accessible through the use of plain language multiple media examples, and a clear delineation of political and ethical implications. Documentary ethics and ethically informed project planning (ch. 5) are considered alongside historical, critical, and practical contexts. Invaluable production tips and a guide to modeling a clear production process (ch. 6) are provided. Production exercises (appendix) help the reader develop technical skills while grounding each exercise in critical ideas and historical referent. Easy access to release form and call sheet templates (appendix)encourage students to consider project organization and legal protection. Aesthetic Planning (ch. 4) is presented through a range of examples along with a clear process for how to develop a detailed, practical plan for a documentary project. The post-production process and skills set (ch. 7)are explored as readers are challenged to consider all the conceptual and practical possibilities of editing. Audience Analysis and Distribution Strategies (ch. 8) include an emphasis on careful research and defining the target audience and the utilization of non-traditional distribution and community-formation strategies to share projects with a public.

Broderick Fox, Occidental College

I purchased this as a required textbook for a graduate class. I dropped the class, because I could not handle my heavy course load while also teaching and caring for my three children, but that is not the book’s fault. The book has been good to me. It has listened to my tearful confessions, held my hand when I needed a friend, and even loaned me a few hundred bucks when I was short on the rent. I’m in love with this book. I’m thinking of asking this book to marry me, but we’re waiting on the supreme court decision on human/object marriages.

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