

## **DOCUMENTARY JOURNALISM -- SPRING 2021**

Tuesday, Thursday 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Online only

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Office hours: By Zoom appointment only. No in-person office hours.

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## **TEXTBOOK**

There is no text book.

## **THE FILM**

Typically, in this class we make a documentary with the entire class working as a production team. We will do that this semester as well but the pandemic imposes restrictions on how we can go about this. For instance, we can't shoot off campus. Further, we can't use the high-quality camera gear we have at our disposal because that requires students and faculty working close together physically.

So, we are going to make a film using nothing but archival and stock footage and still photos. The topic: The year 1968. The year we just finished – 2020 – will end up being considered one of the most consequential in recent American history. How can it not be with nearly 400,000 dead from the pandemic? But 1968 might be considered even more consequential. Consider:

- Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy were assassinated. I don't believe there has ever been a year in which two such prominent Americans were assassinated.
- In the wake of King's murder rioting broke out in more than 120 cities, leaving scores dead and damage in the hundreds of millions of dollars.
- A sitting president, Lyndon Johnson, declined to seek a second term.
- Police beat anti-war demonstrators at the Democratic National Nominating Convention in Chicago in what has been called a police riot. (The current film, "The Trial of the Chicago Seven," is based on criminal charges growing out of that riot.)
- Richard Nixon was elected president.
- American soldiers massacred more than 400 Vietnamese women, children and old men in a village called My Lai
- It was the bloodiest year of the Vietnam War. More than 16,000 American troops were killed.

Attached to the bottom of this syllabus is a fuller listing of notable 1968 events.

And then, of course, there was the music. Our soundtrack will be the music of 1968.

What you will learn from this project:

- How to locate archival material (a valuable and marketable skill in the world of documentary film)
- How to tell a story without your own interviews
- How to write a documentary script

- How to incorporate music
- How to edit a long project

If this film were to be broadcast, streamed or screened in theaters we would have the almost insurmountable task of getting copyright permission for much of what we will use. The usually involved paying a licensing fee. But because our film will only be seen on campus the film qualifies for the fair use copyright exception granted for educational purposes.

## **OTHER FILMS**

Each of you will pick a documentary film of your choice that we will all watch. You will make a presentation to the class about why the film you picked was important, how it was made, etc. Requirement: The film be readily and relatively inexpensively available to stream.

### **Reaching me:**

I will not be keeping face-to-face office hours. But you can reach me by any number of ways: Zoom, telephone (804-484-4759) or e-mail ([rhodiern@richmond.edu](mailto:rhodiern@richmond.edu)).

A special note about e-mails to me: Treat them like the business communication they are. Begin with a conventional salutation (Dear. Prof. Hodiern) and end with a polite closing (Sincerely, Jane Doe). Write in complete sentences with proper capitalization and punctuation. I don't think emoticons are cute. Finally, I don't respond to text messages, Facebook postings or Tweets. Use your university email address so I don't have to guess who pongking@yahoo is.

### **Plagiarism:**

The university honor code defines plagiarism this way: "Plagiarism occurs when a student, with intent to deceive, presents any information, ideas or phrasing of another as if they were her own." Don't appropriate the work of others and pretend it's yours. Err on the side of disclosure. Even if you have appropriated an idea or concept from another without actually stealing that person's words verbatim, say where the idea came from. We call that research.

**If I catch you plagiarizing, you will fail this course.**

### **Disability Support Service**

If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please visit the University of Richmond Disability Services website to begin the accommodations process as soon as possible. ([disability.richmond.edu/students/process/index.htm](http://disability.richmond.edu/students/process/index.htm)) If you already have a University of Richmond Disability Accommodation Notice (DAN), please make me aware of your accommodations as soon as possible. No student will receive accommodations of any kind without a DAN.

### **Recordings**

One of the hallmarks of a University of Richmond education is small classes where faculty and students engage in robust discussions. The goal is always to encourage students with varied perspectives to be heard respectfully. In the department of journalism classrooms, we frequently discuss and debate the latest events and issues in the news that affect our own lives in the current moment. Recognizing all this, professors in Journalism will not be recording our classroom sessions. Recordings of discussions in this class may not be shared beyond members of the class. The fear is students will not engage fully if they believe their comments will be posted to a public site. To be specific, you may not post audio or visual recordings nor transcripts of class discussions, whether made by the faculty member, another student or you, in any public forum whatsoever. Violations can lead to university sanctions including dismissal from school.

## 1968 TIMELINE

Jan. 15	5,000 woman anti-Vietnam War march on Washington
Jan. 20	Game of the Century! Top-ranked UCLA, led by the future Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, faces second-ranked University of Houston, led by Elvin Hayes, at the Astrodome. Houston snaps UCLA's 47-game winning streak, 71-69, in the first NCAA basketball game to be nationally televised in prime time—the granddaddy of March Madness.
Jan. 22	Rowan and Martin Laugh In TV series debuts
Jan. 30	<b>The North Vietnam launch the Tet Offensive. The assault contradicts the Johnson administration's claims that the communist forces are weak and the U.S.-backed south is winning the war. Jan. 31 becomes the deadliest single day for American troops. 246 were killed.</b>
Feb. 8	At the South Carolina State campus, police open fire on students protesting segregation at Orangeburg's only bowling alley. Three protesters die and 27 more are wounded. Nine officers are tried and acquitted of charges related to the use of force. A protest coordinator is convicted of inciting to riot, serves seven months in prison—and is pardoned 25 years later.
Feb. 27	Walter Cronkite, in a CBS-TV special on his recent tour of Vietnam, says the U.S. war effort is "mired in stalemate" and amplifies public skepticism of the war.
Feb. 29	The report of the Kerner Commission, appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson to examine the causes of race riots in American cities in previous years, declares the nation is... <i>"moving toward two societies, one black, one white--seperate and unequal."</i>
March 1-8	Some 15,000 Latino high school students in Los Angeles walk out of classes to press their demand for a better education.
March 5	The government of Czechoslovakia abolishes censorship, underscoring the expansion of freedom during the "Prague Spring" and angering its Communist overlords in the Soviet Union.
March 12	Nixon wins 78 percent of the vote in New Hampshire's GOP primary. Eugene McCarthy, Minnesota's antiwar senator, takes a shocking 42 percent of the Democratic vote

March 16	New York Senator Robert F. Kennedy enters the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, saying McCarthy's showing in New Hampshire "has proven how deep are the present divisions within our party and country." It "is now unmistakably clear that we can change these disastrous, divisive policies only by changing the men who make them."
March 16	<b>American troops massacre more than 400 old men, women and children in the village of My Lai. That massacre doesn't become publicly known for a year.</b>
March 31	<b>As war pressures mount, President Lyndon B. Johnson—who in 1964 won 61 percent of the popular vote, to Barry Goldwater's 39—announces he is not running for re-election.</b>
April 4	<b>Martin Luther King Jr., in Memphis for the sanitation workers' strike, is fatally shot on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel. Gunman James Earl Ray, a white supremacist, flees the country. Over the next week, riots in more than 100 cities nationwide leave 39 people dead, more than 2,600 injured and 21,000 arrested.</b>
April 4	<b>Over the course of the following week, riots broke out in 125 cities nationwide. In many instances the National Guard was required to quell the violence. In Washington, Chicago and Baltimore, it took tens of thousands of regular army soldiers and Marines. When they were over, some 39 people were dead, more than 2,600 injured and 21,000 arrested. The damages were estimated at \$65m - about \$385m today.</b>
April 6	After a 90-minute shootout between Black Panthers and police in Oakland, California, police shoot Bobby Hutton, 17, as he tries to surrender.
April 23	Students take over five buildings on Columbia University's campus and briefly hold a dean hostage, calling for the university to cut its ties to military research. Before dawn on April 30 administrators call in the police, who respond with about 1,000 officers. More than 700 people are arrested, and 132 students, four faculty and 12 officers are injured.
April 29	<i>Hair</i> opens on Broadway and runs for more than 1,700 performances, introducing mainstream theatergoers to sex, drugs, rock 'n' roll and draft resistance.
May 10	The United States and North Vietnam begin peace talks in Paris.
May 17	Nine antiwar Catholic activists -- including priest Daniel and Philip Berrigan, enter a Selective Service office in Catonsville, Maryland, remove nearly 400 files and burn them in the parking lot with homemade napalm. The example of the Catonsville Nine (later convicted of destruction of government property and sentenced to jail terms between 24 and 42 months) spurs some 300 similar raids on draft boards over the next four years.
May 27	The Supreme Court rules 7-1 that burning a draft card is not an act of free speech protected by the First Amendment
June 3	Andy Warhol is shot and critically wounded in his New York City loft by Valerie Solanas, apparently for losing a copy of a play she'd written. She pleads guilty to assault and spends three years in prison.

June 4	Robert F. Kennedy, gaining momentum in his presidential campaign, wins the California primary—and is assassinated at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. Gunman Sirhan Sirhan, a Jordanian citizen of Palestinian descent, is captured at the scene. Now 73, he is serving life in prison.
June 8	James Earl Ray is arrested in London. Extradited to the United States, he pleads guilty to murdering King but later recants, saying he was an unwitting pawn in a conspiracy. He dies in prison of liver failure in 1998, age 70.
June 19	The efforts of the Poor People’s Campaign climaxes in the Solidarity Day Rally for Jobs, Peace, and Freedom in Washington, D.C. Fifty thousand people join the 3,000 participants living at Resurrection City on the National Mall to rally around the demands of the Poor People’s Campaign on Solidarity Day.
July 1	Johnson signs the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which remains the world’s primary means of preventing the spread of nuclear weapons to non-nuclear states and reducing nuclear weapons in the world.
July 18	Gordon Moore and Robert Noyce incorporate their microprocessor manufacturing firm. After rejecting the name “Moore Noyce” as too close to “more noise,” they eventually settle on Intel.
July 20	The first Special Olympics opens at Chicago’s Soldier Field, with more than a thousand athletes with intellectual disabilities competing in 200 events.
July 23	In Cleveland, the Glenville Shootout, between police and black militants, leaves three dead on each side, plus one bystander. Riots rock the city for five days. Mayor Carl Stokes, seven months into his term as the first black official to lead a major U.S. city, later writes, “That night was to haunt and color every aspect of my administration.”
Aug. 5-8	The Republican National Convention formally nominates Nixon for president.
Aug. 26	“Hey Jude,” the first Beatles single issued on their Apple label, is released in the U.S. At more than seven minutes, it becomes the longest song to hit Number 1 on Billboard’s Hot 100.
<b>Aug. 28</b>	<b>At the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, police and Illinois National Guardsmen go on a rampage, clubbing and tear-gassing hundreds of antiwar demonstrators, news reporters and bystanders, with much of the violence broadcast live on TV. The next day, Vice President Hubert Humphrey, perceived as the heir of Johnson’s war policies, wins the Democratic nomination, mostly through delegates controlled by party bosses.</b>
Sept. 7	Feminists protest the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City.
Sept. 9	Arthur Ashe wins the U.S. Open, becoming the first black man to win a Grand Slam tennis tournament. He was a Richmond native.

Sept. 16	Nixon, seeking to dispel his sourpuss image, appears on <i>Laugh-In</i> just long enough to proclaim, "Sock it to me" on-camera. It is a rare intersection of politics and entertainment—Humphrey declines a similar invitation.
Sept. 24	CBS's "60 Minutes" debuts. It is the longest continuously running prime-time show in history.
Sept. 30	Boeing rolls out the 747 Jumbo Jet, the biggest passenger plane the world has seen to date—231 feet long, wings spanning 196 feet and seats for 490.
Oct. 11-12	The Apollo 7 mission, which spends more time in space than all the Soviet flights to that time combined, makes the first live TV broadcast from up there.
Oct. 16	At the Olympic Games in Mexico City, Americans Tommie Smith and John Carlos receive the gold and bronze medals in the 200-meter dash, then raise gloved fists during the national anthem to protest violence toward and poverty among African-Americans. The next day, the International Olympic Committee strips their medals and sends them home.
<b>Nov. 5</b>	<b>Nixon wins the presidency, beating Humphrey by just 0.7 percent of the popular vote. Segregationist candidate George Wallace carries five Southern states. Shirley Chisholm of New York becomes the first black woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.</b>
Nov. 9	Yale University, after 267 years, decides to admit female undergraduates, beginning in 1969.
Nov. 12	The Supreme Court unanimously rules that an Arkansas law prohibiting the teaching of evolution in public schools violates the First Amendment.
Nov. 20	Consolidation Coal's No. 9 mine in Farmington, West Virginia, explodes, killing 78 miners and becoming a catalyst for new mine-safety laws.
Nov. 26	O.J. Simpson of USC wins the Heisman Trophy. (In 1999, it is auctioned for \$255,500, which goes toward the \$33.5 million civil judgment against him in the killing of his ex-wife and a friend of hers.)
Dec. 3	Elvis Presley begins a comeback from years of torpor and schlock with a one-hour special on NBC-TV.
Dec. 9	Douglas C. Engelbart's 90-minute demonstration at the Fall Joint Computer Conference in San Francisco includes the world's first mouse and word processor.
Dec. 21-27	Apollo 8 becomes the first manned spacecraft to orbit the Moon and return safely to Earth. During the mission the "Earthrise" photograph is taken.
	<b>1968 was the deadliest year of the Vietnam War for Americans. 16,592 were killed.</b>

