

**DOCUMENTING MARITIME ENVIRONMENTS**  
CUNY/ Bangor University, Wales, United Kingdom  
Summer Session 1 – June 5, 2017 – June 25, 2017  
(Film 2201/TVRA 4827, Film 3202/TVRA 4849, CORC 3311)

Professor Annette Danto  
Faculty Program Director  
Film Department  
Brooklyn College  
adanto@brooklyn.cuny.edu

**Documenting Maritime Environments** is a faculty-led course providing CUNY students with a unique and exciting opportunity to work with Bangor University's School of Creative Studies and Media, School of Ocean Sciences, and local fishermen on films exploring the nature of maritime work. Through a combination of lectures, workshops, screenings and field trips, students will learn about our oceans and experience documentary filmmaking within a specific cultural and environmental context.

Over three weeks, students will produce a series of short documentary films examining the relationship between humans and the sea. This will include exotic marine habitats, and the impact of global environmental shifts on our oceans, and fishing industries.

**Documenting Maritime Environments** is open to all CUNY students, with and without a background in media-making and documentary. Students learn the fundamentals of visual storytelling for documentary production. All students will receive instruction in digital camera and lighting techniques, location sound recording for exterior/interior environments, picture and sound editing.

While **Documenting Maritime Environments** will be of particular relevance to documentary and media production students, environmental science students will learn a range of media production skills and techniques.

**Documenting Maritime Environments** will be held at Bangor University, on the edge of the Snowdonia National Park.

Wales is located on the boundary of three oceanic and climatic zones: North-East Atlantic, Arctic Boreal, Lusitanian. It has one of the largest tidal ranges in the world. Those factors combine to make the marine wildlife off Wales more diverse than many other places in Europe. The Welsh coastline is recognised as being of both national and global importance. Wales has a staggering 1,702 miles of coastline. This includes offshore islands, dramatic cliffs, and expansive rock pools.

Understanding the cultures and environments of Wales will be an important aspect of the course. Students will visit a range of important Welsh historical and cultural sites, including hikes through the Snowdonia National Park, located some 15 minutes outside Bangor.

### **Accommodations**

Single rooms with private bathrooms are provided on the Bangor University campus for the duration of the program. All meals are included in program costs and will be provided in the residence cafeteria.

### **Course Objectives:**

- Students will learn fundamentals of documentary production including: research and development, production and post production.
- Students will learn fundamentals of visual storytelling for the documentary medium
- Students will learn stylistic approaches to documentary storytelling
- Students will learn and improve technical skills in camera, sound, and editing.
- Students will collaborate with other media production students on all aspects of research and development, production and post production.
- Students will learn the 4-C's: communicate, create, connect and collaborate.
- Students will appreciate the importance of cultural sensitivity, context and issues of representation.
- Students will understand the diversity of maritime environments and the importance of coastal regions.
- Students will learn about climate changes effecting coastal environments and fishing industries in particular.

### **Tentative itinerary: (Summer Session 1)**

June 5, 2017 – June 25, 2017

Day 1	Depart JFK for Manchester, United Kingdom
Day 2	Arrive Bangor University and check into residence hall
Day 3	Lecture: <i>History of Wales and Welsh Culture</i> Walking tour of campus and town. Afternoon Lecture: <i>Society and Our Oceans</i> Evening: Free
Day 4	Lecture: <i>Welsh Cinema and Documentary Traditions</i> Screening: TBD – meet/greet Welsh Filmmakers Technical Session: Introduction to digital cameras/lighting/sound gear/editing. Evening: Free
Day 5	Lecture: <i>Environmental Changes and Maritime Communities</i> On Board University Research Vessel – Full Day

Day 6	Tech Workshops continued: cinematography/lighting/sound exercises and editing workshop
Day 7	Supervised tech exercises
Day 8	Afternoon: Topic selection. Commence research and development. Research and development continues. Begin working on project proposal and script outline for documentary.
Day 9	Script proposals reviewed by faculty, revisions and final approvals. Preproduction scheduling, logistics
Day 10	Begin production
Day 11	Production
Day 12	Production and begin reviewing dailies with faculty
Day 13	Begin editing
Day 14	Editing
Day 15	Snowdonia National Park
Day 16	Snowdownia National Park
Day 17	Continue picture/sound editing
Day 18	First cut screening and feedback sessions with faculty/students
Day 19	Final editing revisions including sound mix, credits.
Day 20	Final cut screening
Day 21	Depart for Manchester airport / arrive JFK

#### **Grades and Assignments:**

- Grades will be based on student participation in all class lectures, technical workshops and production projects.
- All students are required to attend required course lectures and all guided sightseeing tours.
- All students are required to participate in a documentary project.

#### **Grades:**

- Technical Assignments 40%
- Classroom Lectures 20%
- Documentary Production 40%

#### **Recommended Reading:**

***Directing the Documentary***, (Michael Rabiger, Focal Press 5<sup>th</sup> Edition). All facets of documentary research and development, production and post production.

***Think/Point/Shoot: Media Ethics, Technology and Global Change***, (Taylor & Francis: Routledge 2017 Danto/Hashmi/Isabel) Filmmakers, journalists, scholars discuss the ethical complexities of movie-making and the documentary process.

***Here Be Dragons*** (Sharon Kay Penman, 1985). First part of a trilogy, the author melds history and fiction to bring 13th-century Wales vividly to life .

***A History of Wales*** (John Davies, revised 2007). This insightful history tells the story of Wales from the Ice Age to the present.

***The Kingdom by the Sea: A Journey Around the Coast of Great Britain*** (Paul Theroux, 1983). After 11 years as an American expatriate in London, travel writer Theroux takes a witty tour of his adopted homeland.

***The Matter of Wales*** (Jan Morris, 1985). The half-English, half-Welsh author reveals the mysteries and joys of life in Wales.

***Notes from a Small Island*** (Bill Bryson, 1995). In this irreverent and delightful memoir, US expat Bryson writes about his travels through Britain — his home for two decades.

**Recommended Welsh documentary films:**

*Sleep Furiously* (Koppel, 2008)

*Separado!* (Rhys, 2010)

*American Interior* (Rhys, 2014)

*Gerallt* (S4C, 2013)

*Dark Horse* (Osmond, 2015)

(*Gerallt* is not available on DVD, but can be viewed online, [here](#) )

**Recommended Welsh narrative films:**

<https://theculturetrip.com/europe/united-kingdom/wales/articles/mining-for-gold-welsh-cinematic-treasures/>

**Program cost: \$ 4541.** (includes all program costs: r/t international airfare, full accommodation, all meals, equipment and all production costs, sightseeing charges).

Does not include CUNY tuition.