

DOCUMENTING MARITIME ENVIRONMENTS in WALES, UNITED KINGDOM

CUNY Brooklyn College & Bangor University, Wales, United Kingdom

Summer Session 1 – 2018

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Climate change, global warming and our oceans. This 22 day, faculty led course provides CUNY students with technical skills in using cameras, sound, and editing software as a way of addressing important issues of our time.

In this day and age of visual storytelling and digital communication, all students from all disciplines require fundamental skills in media production.

Documenting Maritime Environments provides 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 maritime work. Through a combination of lectures, workshops, screenings and field trips, students will learn about our oceans and experience media-making within a specific cultural and environmental context.

Over three weeks, students will gain valuable technical skills in camera operation, sound recording and the logistics of producing a short media project. Students will produce short documentary films examining the relationship between humans and the sea. This will include exploration of 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. 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, the course is interdisciplinary and welcomes students from a range of academic majors. In this day and age of ubiquitous media, all students require the ability to communicate using cameras, microphones, and editing software. This course will provide students with those valuable skills.

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) and 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 2,740 km (1,702 miles) of coastline, including 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.

Tentative itinerary: (Summer Session 1)

June 8, 2018 – June 29, 2018

Day 1	Depart JFK for Manchester, United Kingdom
Day 2	Arrive Bangor University and check into residence hall
Day 3	Lecture: History of Wales, Welsh Culture Walking tour of campus and town. Evening: Social get together with students from Bangor University
Day 4	Lecture: Society and Our Oceans Lecture: Environmental Changes and Maritime Communities On board University Research Vessel Evening: Guest Welsh Filmmaker, Screening, Q & A
Day 5	Lecture: History of Welsh Cinema/Documentary Traditions Film screening. Tech Workshop. Evening: Meet and greet Welsh filmmakers
Day 6	Tech Workshops (continued): cinematography/lighting/sound exercises and editing workshop Evening: Informal group meetings
Day 7	Afternoon: Topic selection. Commence research and development. Evening: Visit to Bangor Town for dinner and theater (TBD)
Day 8	Research and development on University Research Shipping Vessels
Day 9	Script development/proposals reviewed by faculty, 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 – Travel to park. Settle into guest house. Lunch Afternoon Mountain Hike Evening: Dinner and Program (TBD)
Day 16	Snowdonia National Park Morning sunrise hike Swim Lunch Return to Bangor Evening: Rest
Day 17	Continue picture/sound editing
Day 18	First cut screening and feedback sessions with faculty/students
Day 19	Continue editing
Day 20	Continue and complete picture/sound editing
Day 21	Final Screening
Day 22	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.

Grading Scale:

- Tech assignments 40%
- Classroom Lectures 20%
- Documentary Production Work 40%

Recommended Reading:

Directing the Documentary, (Michael Rabiger, Focal Press 5th 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 <https://youtu.be/ZzyhwOHD8zc>)

Recommended Welsh narrative films:

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