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:


*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 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/