

A - New Course Proposal : Entry # 3674**DEAN Decision**

Approved

Date

09/09/2026

Is this course intracollegiate or intercollegiate?

Intracollegiate

SCHOOL EPC Decision

Approved

Date

10/14/2026

Begin Form**Today's Date**

08/28/2026

Your Name:

Barry Thornburg

Your Email:bthornbu@highpoint.edu**Are you a Department Chair?**

No

Department Chair Name

Rob Powell

Email address of your Department Chairrpowell0@highpoint.edu**By checking below, I certify that my department chair has seen and approved the new course that I am proposing.**

Yes

Please select the appropriate school overseeing this proposal:

Communication

When should this proposal take effect?

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Fall 2027

Information for the Registrar**Choose the department designator from the list below.**

MPE

Proposed Course Number?

3411

Is this course cross listed?

No

Does this course replace a current course?

No

What is the title of the new course?

Documentary Production

Write the catalog description of your proposed course:

Documentary Production explores and practices diverse approaches to nonfiction storytelling by studying the works of influential filmmakers and producing documentary short films.

How many credit hours will this course be?

4

How will the course be graded?

Letter grade

Please select the course repeat option for this course:

Not repeatable for credit

What is the offering cycle for this course?

Fall semester

Does your course have any prerequisites?

Yes

Please list all prerequisites this course requires:

MPE-2221 OR MPE-3311 OR JOU-2243

Is this new course being proposed because of a new or revised major or minor proposal?

No

A - New Course Proposal : Entry # 3674**Gen Ed and Academic Programs****Is this course part of Gen Ed?**

- No

Does this course count towards a major or a minor?

Yes

Please list the Major / Minor and if it is Required or Elective

MPE Major - Elective; MPE Minor - Elective

Is this course part of an academic program?

- This course does not fulfill academic program requirements

Does this course include any community engagement?

No

Does this course participate in the GoGlobal Program?

No

Information for Curriculum Review**Rationale and evidence for new course's consistency with departmental mission:**

Documentary Production gives the department the ability to teach nonfiction storytelling with greater specificity. While some existing courses provide minor exposure to the topic, this course would allow the major to offer a focused and thorough approach to documentary media. The course has been taught twice as a Special Topics course in Fall 2025 and Fall 2026. Student enrollment and engagement had been high with students producing consistently strong work.

List all student learning outcomes for this course.

Students can analyze and critique short and long-form documentary films, identifying key elements such as narrative structure, cinematography, sound design, and editing techniques.

Students can develop and pitch their documentary film ideas, outlining the story, structure, and production plan.

Students can collaborate with a small crew to produce a short documentary film, demonstrating proficiency in pre-production, production, and post-production processes.

Students can effectively promote and screen their documentary films at an open screening event, utilizing marketing strategies and public speaking skills to engage their audience.

List any units or content areas that will be required for all sections of this course.

N/A

List any assignments, tests, or other assessments that will be required for all sections of this course.

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N/A

List any readings or other materials that will be required for all sections of this course.

N/A

List any course policies that will be required for all sections of this course.

N/A

If you would like to specify how requirements for contact hours must be met for all sections of this course, please indicate below. (e.g., if any experiential learning activities will replace seat time)

N/A

Is there anything else the reviewing parties should know about this new course proposal that hasn't been addressed?

No

Sample Syllabus

- [MPE3411_01_2026FA0_Thornburg.pdf](#)