

OLLI at DU West Syllabus – Spring 2024

Capturing Reality: The Art of Documentary Film

8 weeks - Online

Facilitators: Dixie Vice & John Lungerhausen

Week 1 - Sky Ladder: The Art of Cai Guo-Qiang (2016) - Director Kevin Macdonald - 1 hr 16 mins

Known for his spectacular pyrotechnic displays, this Chinese artist creates his most ambitious project yet in this breathtaking documentary.

Week 2 - Finding Vivian Maier (2013) - Director John Maloof & Charlie Sickle - 1 hr 23 mins

A documentary on the late Vivian Maier, a nanny whose previously unknown cache of 100,000 photographs earned her a posthumous reputation as one of the most accomplished street photographers.

Week 3 - Command and Control (2016) - Robert Kenner - 1 hr 32 mins

Filmmaker Robert Kenner examines how human error caused an explosion at a nuclear site toward the end of the Cold War and links mutually assured destruction to self-annihilation.

Week 4 - Who Killed the Electric Car (2006) - Director Chris Paine - 1 hr 32 mins

Following a strict mandate on air emissions in California, General Motors launches the EV-1 in 1997. It is an electric automobile that requires no gas, oil, muffler, or brake changes and is, seemingly, the world's first perfect car.

Week 5 - The Times of Harvey Milk (1984) - Director Rob Epstein - 1 hr 30 mins

Operating from his camera store in San Francisco's Castro district, charismatic Harvey Milk is defeated 3 times before being elected to the city's Board of Supervisors, making him California's first openly gay public official.

Week 6 - Navalny (2022) - Director Daniel Roher - 1 hr 38 mins

Detailing the 2020 assassination attempt of Russian opposition leader and former presidential candidate Alexei Navalny, in which he is poisoned with a military-grade nerve agent.

Week 7 - Minding the Gap (2018) - Director Bing Liu - 1 hr 33 mins

Three young men bonded through skateboarding to escape their volatile family life in their Rust Belt hometown. As they face their adult responsibilities, some unexpected revelations threaten their decade-long friendship.

Week 8 - Free Solo (2018) - Directors Jimmy Chin & Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi - 1 hr 40 mins

A professional rock climber attempts to conquer the first free solo climb of famed El Capitan's 900-meter (almost 3,000 foot) vertical rock face at Yosemite National Park.