Creative Documentary Workshop
from Idea to Screen

A five-week workshop with Francisco Zamora, Master in
Documentary Directing, filmmaker, and Ph.D. Candidate
in Film Studies at the University Paris VIII, France.

Free to UMass and 5 College students.

Fridays 3:00pm–6:00pm
March 27 — April 24
Integrative Learning Center S404
UMass Amherst

To join the workshop, contact:
franciscozamoraporras@gmail.com

This workshop explores the key phases in the making of a creative documentary from
screenplay to screening. This theoretical-practical weekly encounter will culminate in the
creation of a 5-minute documentary. Each student will write, film, and edit their own film.

All the movies made in this workshop will be shown in a public screening at UMass with a short presentation by each participant.

The approaches of the workshop:

I. Journalistic genres and cinematographic documentaries, differences and permeabilities
II. Historical approach to documentaries
III. Writing a documentary and how to anticipate the real
IV. Questions around filming and editing a documentary
V. Showing a documentary: pitching a film and the commercial position of a filmmaker.

Methodology in two modules:

Theory: Theoretical points will be accompanied by clips from documentaries which will open the discussion.

Practice: In the practical part of the workshop, the students will write and film their owns ideas. In every class we will allot a time to show the work created by the students and discuss the concrete technical and ethical issues of their creative process.
Movies we will screen:
FLAHERTY Robert J., *Nanook of the North*, 1922
VIGO Jean, *A propos de Nice*, 1930
MAYSLES Albert, MAYSLES David, *Salesman*, 1968
WISEMAN Frederick, *Titicut Follies*, 1967
KAREL William, *Dark side of the Moon*, 2002
SAAL Michka, *Prisoners of Beckett*, 2005
COSTA Pedro, *In Vanda’s Room*, 2000
PHILIBERT Nicolas, *To Be and to Have*, 2002

Recomended texts: