

Inquiry into the Documentary
Hugh Davis

In this course, we will examine the history, formal qualities, and ethics of twentieth-century documentary expression. Paying particular attention to “real life” and its representation, as well as the ethical questions inherent in the documentary form, we will analyze photo-text collaborations such as *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*, radio pieces from *This American Life*, and films such as *Dancing Outlaw*, *Triumph of the Will*, *The Thin Blue Line*, *Hoop Dreams*, and *Grizzly Man*. In addition to researching and writing contextual and rhetorical analyses of individual works, students will also produce a photo-text, audio, or film documentary of their own and present it to the class.