



Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
4400 University Drive, MS 5G3, Fairfax, VA 22030
Phone: 703-993-8762 Fax: 703-993-5585 Email: mais@gmu.edu

Capstone Project Guidelines for Film and Video Studies

The capstone project within the MAIS in Film and Video Studies concentration is the culminating work of the program, drawing upon the student's core and elective courses. FAVS projects are professionally produced videos supplemented with print materials, including the proposal, script, research materials, editing logs, transcripts, and release forms. A student's final project may be an extension of an internship or independent production. If so, the project will require additional research/footage on the topic that is specifically produced by the student.

Requirements

Committee

All MAIS project committees are composed of 3 members. The chair of the committee must be a member of the Mason graduate faculty. The second member must be a member of the Mason faculty, graduate or otherwise. The third member may be Mason faculty or a person with expertise on the project topic who holds at least a Master's degree.

Length

The length of the final video should be between 5 and 30 minutes. Quality is more important than length.

Proposal

FAVS students are required to submit a formal research proposal consistent with graduate-level work in the College of Humanities & Social Sciences. Students will produce this proposal in MAIS 797: Interdisciplinary Studies Proposal.

Research

The script should be based on research, even if the film is not documentary in nature. Research for fictional narratives might include investigation of subject matter or critical examination of relevant genres. A bibliography of sources consulted is required when submitting the final project.



Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
4400 University Drive, MS 5G3, Fairfax, VA 22030
Phone: 703-993-8762 Fax: 703-993-5585 Email: mais@gmu.edu

Examples of Past Projects

An animated short for young children

The FAVS student wrote, drew, and animated a short film about a boy who wants to be an adult so that he doesn't have to go to school on his birthday. Created in a Dr. Seuss-type format, the student worked with actors for the voice-overs, created the music and sound effects, wrote the script, drew the frames and animated the piece.

A documentary about Marian Anderson

Marian Anderson (1897-1993) was an African American opera singer who helped to integrate the fine arts in the United States. She is most famous for a performance given on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in 1939 at the invitation of President and Mrs. Roosevelt after the Daughters of the American Revolution refused to allow her to perform before an integrated audience in Constitution Hall. The documentary film project included interviews with the singer, her colleagues, and students.

Pitch piece for a documentary about Jackson Ward in Richmond, Virginia

Jackson Ward was a wealthy and culturally rich African American community in the 1940s. By the 1960s, Jackson Ward had declined in terms of commerce, population and cultural richness. This video includes interviews with residents and archival footage and photographs that document this change.

Video about black sea turtles in California

This project included underwater footage, important facts about the lives of Black Sea Turtles, and a discussion about their survival. An edited version was aired on National Geographic Shorts.