



One Year Master Programme in Film Ethnography

60 ECTS



1. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

The goal of the programme is that the student will acquire deep competence in theories of visual anthropology combined with a practical proficiency in ethnographic film production.

On successful completion of the courses the student will be able to

- demonstrate advanced knowledge of major paradigms in visual anthropology, ethnographic field methodology and principles of qualitative research
- apply this knowledge in ethnographic film production
- demonstrate knowledge of theories of communication with focus on moving images
- apply theories of representation
- identify and apply appropriate audiovisual means and methods of production
- independently conduct an ethnographic film project, and orally as well as in written form analyse their own and other students' work.

2. MAIN STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

This programme is a supplementary programme within Social Anthropology on advanced level. The programme consists of six obligatory courses which have to be attended in the order specified below. The students will subsequently broaden and deepen their scholarly expertise by studying the acquisition and communication of knowledge (first semester) through the application of audiovisual means of representation (second semester).

The teaching mode is flexible, i.e. campus-based instruction is combined with Net-based instruction and supervision. In **campus-based** instruction, the student participates in lectures, seminars, and group assignments. **Net-based** instruction means that the lectures and seminars are principally carried out in digital form, with the aid of e-mail, the Internet, and other channels of communication. Students are expected to maintain continual contact with teachers, supervisors, and fellow students over the Net. Participation requires a computer with Internet access. The language of instruction is English (upon request). All course material will be in English. **Some parts of the programme require physical attendance** in Falun, Sweden (specified below).

Entry to the programme is the fall semester.

3. COURSES OF THE PROGRAMME

First Semester	Courses	ECTS-credits
Course 1a*	Audiovisual Recording and Editing, alternatively	7,5
Course 1b	Qualitative Research Methods	7,5
Course 2	Ethnographic Fieldwork in Theory and Practice	7,5
Course 3	Ethnographic Film – The (Re)Construction of Reality”	15
Second Semester		
Course 4	Project Outline in Film Ethnography	7,5
Course 5	Specialisation in Film Ethnography	7,5
Course 6	Master Degree Thesis in Social Anthropology with Specialisation in Film Ethnography	15

* Students with a Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Image Production, or similar, replace Course 1a Audiovisual Recording and Editing with Course 1b Qualitative Research Methods.

BQ3001: Audiovisual Recording and Editing, 7.5 ECTS-credits

The course conveys basic insights into the form elements of documentary film, and how filmed material can be structured into a narrative. The main emphasis is on technical skills in camera operation and digital editing. The course also deals with special conditions applicable to the photographer when filming various kinds of documentaries as well as to the editor in the cutting process. The course also examines how a narrative can be structured on the basis of filmed material. In two practical projects, skills are practiced with regard to the recording/shooting and editing of documentary audio and visual material. This course requires physical attendance in **Falun, Sweden**.

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to

- practically work with a video camera, microphone, and editing software in order to produce a small-scale documentary film
- demonstrate awareness of how film photographers/videographers and editors work in documentary film production
- relate the technical tools for sound and moving pictures to discussions on the aesthetics and structure of documentary film and radio documentaries
- analyse filmed or recorded documentary material and make selections which from a narrative perspective contribute towards fulfilling the aim of the documentary film or audio documentary
- practically apply acquired knowledge to a group project of a minor documentary

Assessment takes place through the production of a “radio documentary” edited in Final Cut Pro (FCP), and a “process film”, i.e. a short documentation of a sequence of events

SB3002 Qualitative Research Methods, 7.5 ECTS-credits

The course provides proficiency in qualitative research methods and scientific theory within social science and humanities. The differences between quantitative and qualitative research methodology are elucidated, the researcher’s role as subject is highlighted, interaction with the “object of investigation” is problematised, and “interpretation” as a scientific tool is conceptualized.

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to

- describe various orientations of scientific theory in the social sciences and humanities
- discuss the differences between quantitative and qualitative research methodology
- reflexively take a stand on the roles of the researcher and study object in the research process
- assume a critically reflective perspective with regards to the creation of scientific “truths”.

Assessment takes place through written tests (exams and/or short papers) and/or graded participation in seminars.

SB3003 Ethnographic Fieldwork in Theory and Practice, 7.5 ECTS-credits

The course provides insights into anthropological theory and method, and problematises participant observation as an investigative tool. The course also conveys insights into visual ethnographic fieldwork, i.e. if and in what way the camera influences the interaction between the ethnographer and informant. Ethical aspects of ethnographic fieldwork are especially highlighted. Included in the course is a minor field exercise, in which the student has the opportunity to apply theoretical insights regarding the (visual) ethnographic research process in practice.

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to

- demonstrate broad and in-depth knowledge of a range of theory formation positions and methods of analysis in anthropology and social sciences
- apply knowledge of anthropological research methodology in order to independently carry out and document a minor field exercise.

In particular, the student will be able to

- identify basic anthropological field methods
- relate these to a wider ongoing discussion of scientific theory.
- carry out the collection of field data through, among other things, participant observation
- carry out a minor qualitative interview
- evaluate and, in written and/or audiovisual format, present acquired knowledge
- reflect on and explain the researcher's role in the investigative process
- call attention to the principles of research ethics applicable to humanities and social science research.

Assessment takes place through written tests (exams and/or short papers) and/or graded participation in seminars, as well as a field exercise which is reported either in writing or through a short film (studio work in Falun, Sweden) with written comments.

SB3004 Ethnographic Film – The (Re)construction of “Reality 15 ECTS-credits

The course provides insights into the development of documentary and ethnographic/anthropological film, and conveys knowledge of the theories of the conditions of representation with a focus on the relationship between moving images and various conceptions of reality. The practical-oriented section of the course applies knowledge of how reality is reconstructed, interpreted, and assembled with the camera, and how this process of interpretation continues in post-production. In summary, the course provides training to the creation of ethnographic/anthropological film in a professional manner. This course requires physical attendance in Falun, Sweden.

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to

- understand and have knowledge of the development and conditions of ethnographic/anthropological film
- actively participate in insightful discussions on the relevance and validity of different manners and theories of representation
- analyse a recorded documentary material and make selections which, from narrative and thematic perspectives, contribute to fulfilling the aim of the documentary film
- reflect on how ethnographic fieldwork, analysis, and planning, or the lack of, impact on the work of the photographer and the editor
- understand the consequences of ethical considerations in relation to the post-production and distribution of audiovisual material
- practically apply his or her skills and abilities to a minor documentary project
- demonstrate awareness of different approaches to the subject/object and to ethnographic fieldwork in documentary film production

Assessment takes place through continuous, graded seminars, and also through the editing of pre-filmed audiovisual material in combination with a written theoretical report.

BQ3002 Project Outline in Film Ethnography, 7.5 ECTS-credits

The course provides practical training in making a detailed plan for an ethnographic film project using the following basic structure: production conditions, pre-production, film shoot and post-production. Separate focus is placed on creating an outline draft, the script writing process, planning, legal and financial issues, analysis of surrounding social and environmental conditions, and distribution. Focus is placed on the ability to present the project. The course also involves a discussion of ethnographic film as a method of investigation as well as a vehicle for the presentation of research results.

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to

- describe and explain the technical, organizational, legal, and financial issues within an ethnographic film project
- apply relevant practical routines in order to create necessary documentation of a project's conditions, both ahead and upon completion of the project
- demonstrate awareness of his/her's own abilities and qualifications for conducting a project in film ethnography. The project will relate to the relevant and current conditions within the student's chosen area of interest.
- describe and explain the relationship between ethnographic research and the conditions of film production within a given field
- identify and discuss the film maker's role in the context of the specific project
- present a proposal for a project in film ethnography in the form of an outline draft, an analysis of the surrounding social and environmental conditions, a project plan, and an oral presentation, as a hypothetical producer, on professional conditions
- problematise ethnographic film making in terms of a method of research and/or the reporting of research results.

Assessment takes place through the production of a detailed written description of the project with an analysis of the surrounding social and environmental conditions, and a work and time plan.

SB3005 Specialisation in Filmethnography, 7.5 ECTS-credits

The course provides the opportunity for individual specialisation of a theoretical and/or practical character relevant to a written paper of a substantial nature or a project in film ethnography.

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to

- search for, gather, and structure factual material of relevance to the writing of a scientific paper
- discern relevant research trends in the project's subject area
- present a broad and in-depth compilation of theoretical and/or regional character.

Further, the student will demonstrate familiarity with, and in a scientific manner, be able to

- assume a critically reflective perspective
- classify, structure, analyse and problematise abstract arguments and complex theoretical contexts, and relate them to the production of ethnographic film.

The student will also have strengthened his or her personal and professional abilities and competence by

- demonstrating considerable capacity to independently identify relevant problem areas and research questions
- communicating both orally as well as in writing complex contexts in a concise and clear manner.

Assessment takes place through the writing of a minor paper, which is discussed in a seminar with an opponent discussant.

SB3006 Master Degree Thesis in Social Anthropology with Specialisation in Filmethnography, 15 ECTS-credits

The course consists of an individually and independently executed ethnographic film project, and also the composition of a commentative and theoretical written paper.

Upon completion of the course, the student will

- be able to demonstrate the ability to independently carry out an ethnographic film project
- be able to compose a commentative and theoretical written paper.

Further, the student will demonstrate familiarity with, and in a scientific manner, be able to

- assume a critically reflective perspective
- classify, structure, analyse and problematise abstract arguments and complex theoretical contexts, and putting them in relation to the production of ethnographic film.

The student will also have strengthened his or her personal and professional competence and abilities by

- demonstrating considerable capacity to independently identify relevant problem areas and research questions
- demonstrating the ability to communicate complex contexts in a concise and clear manner both orally and in writing, as well as in audiovisual format

Assessment consists of an ethnographic film project (studio work in **Falun**, Sweden) and a written paper which is discussed in a seminar with an opponent discussant.

SB3001 Ethnographic Film Project, 15 ECTS-credits

The course consists of an individually and independently executed ethnographic film project, and also the composition of a commentative and theoretical written paper.

Upon completion of the course, the student will

- be able to demonstrate the ability to independently carry out an ethnographic film project
- be able to compose a commentative and theoretical written paper.

Further, the student will, demonstrate familiarity with, and in a scientific manner, be able to

- assume a critically reflective perspective
- classify, structure, analyse and problematise abstract arguments and complex theoretical contexts, and relate them to the production of ethnographic film.

The student will also have strengthened his or her personal and professional competence and abilities by

- demonstrating considerable capacity to independently identify relevant problem areas and research questions, and
- communicating complex contexts in a concise and clear manner orally, in writing, and in audiovisual format.

Assessment consists of an ethnographic film project, and a written paper which is discussed in a seminar with an opponent discussant.

4. DEGREE AWARDED

Students who fulfil the objectives of the programme and pass all the courses will – upon application - receive a Swedish "Filosofie magisterexamen med huvudområdet socialantropologi (Degree of Master of Science (One Year) with a Major in Social Anthropology. The exam includes 60 ECTS-credits. The name of the programme will be specified in the degree certificate.

5. REQUIRED ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

To be qualified for the One Year Master Programme in Film Ethnography, the student must have

- at least a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science or similar exam, and
- proficiency in English language corresponding to English B at Swedish upper-secondary school.

Do you have further questions?

Please contact our:

International Office at: ioffice@du.se
Admissions Office at: admissions@du.se
Study Cancellors Office at: studievagledning@du.se

