

# ELO-E1545 Documentary Film Production and Financing

Department of Film, Television and Scenography

2021/2022

ELO, Aalto University

**Dates:** 25.4 - 06.05. 2022

**Place:** See schedule below

**Time:** See schedule below

**Responsible teachers:** Miia Haavisto/Arturo Delgado Pereira

**Teaching Language:** English

**Credits:** 4 cr (max)

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## Description of the course

The course will provide the students with an increased understanding of how to finance and produce a documentary film. The course will cover different phases of a documentary project, and the production and financing needs and strategies that pertain to them.

The course will take into consideration the different phases of a documentary project: scriptwriting and development, domestic financing, international funding and co-production, audience, outreach & impact and distribution, sales and festivals.

The course will be organized around lectures, visitors and case studies. The lectures will cover aspects of funding applications, budgets and written materials. The students will be given individual and/or group assignments during the course. The visitors include key people in the Finnish financing institutions as well as producers and filmmakers who will elaborate their take on producing creative documentaries.

## Pre-assignment

Bring with you a documentary film project idea, even if in a very early stage. Ideally, it is an idea that you can work on during the course from the point of view of development, financing, distribution, marketing and packaging. Please note that the course will not be about content development, but rather about how to make your idea into a project, what kind of resources are needed for the project to move forward and to become presentable to potential co-producers, financing partners, grant applications etc. Please note that it is also possible to team up with someone in the course for this purpose.

## Assignments

Course assignments will be presented to students on the first week of the course. The assignments will be carried out during the course and students will have independent study time to complete the assignments. Students are encouraged to work on their existing ideas during the course, even if they might be in early development.

## Schedule

### WEEK 17 (25. - 29.4) DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCING

#### Monday 25th: Class at F101, Väre.

##### 9.30 - 12.00

Introduction by Miia Haavisto and Arturo Delgado Pereira.  
Students introduce their project ideas.

##### 13.00 - 15.00

Independent work in class with the 1st assignment.  
Either Miia or Arturo will be present for discussion and questions.

#### Tuesday 26th: Independent Study.

##### 9.30 - 16.00

Independent work with the 2nd and 3rd Assignment.

#### Wednesday 27th: Class at L101, Väre.

##### 09:30 - 12.00

*Discussion about the development of creative documentaries and best practices with future applicants.*

Iris Olsson and Eero Tammi / Finnish Film Foundation.

##### 13.00 - 15.00

*Creative documentaries and public broadcasting  
- What, how and to whom Yle wants to cater to?*

Erkko Lyytinen / YLE.

##### 15.00 - 15.30

Wrap with the teachers and the students.

#### Thursday 28th: Press screening of Happy Worker AND Pitch 2022.

##### 10.00 - 11.30. Tennispalatsi 2. Salomonkatu 15, 00100 Helsinki

Press screening of *Happy Worker* for those who are not tied to Pitch 2022 already in the morning.

#### Followed by

##### PITCH 2022

9.00 - 16.30. Kino K-13, Kanavakatu 12.

The participants of the course attend Pitch 2022, an event where students from different Finnish Film schools pitch their scripts and graduation films for an audience of fellow students, financiers and producers. There is only one documentary to be pitched there, but it will be useful to hear the fiction projects, too, and to hear the key financiers present.

### **Friday 29th**

**9.30 - 16.00**

Independent work with the 4th Assignment. The classroom F101 (Väre) is available if students want to use it.

## **WEEK 18 (2.- 6.5.) PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION**

### **Monday 2nd: Class at Q202, Väre.**

**09.30 - 12.00** Students talk about their progress with their assignments/projects to the class.

**13.00 - 15.00** Kaarle Aho (Making Movies Oy). Working on applications and practicalities of production/financing.

### **Tuesday 3rd: Class at L101, Väre.**

**10.00 - 12.00**

Producer Liisa Karpo, Napa Films  
International co-productions and how to get there.

**13.00 - 15.00**

Sini Hormio (Impact Producer-Tuffi Films): Impact and Audience Engagement.

### **Wednesday 4th**

**9.30 - 12.30**

Independent study with assignment 5.

**13.30 - 16.00**

Elokuvasäätiön dokkarikahvit ke 4.5.2022  
Kino K13, Katajanokanlaituri 11 A, Helsinki  
13:30 Kahvitarjoilu lämpiössä  
14:00–16:00 Tilaisuus salissa  
Miia joins the students. Please note that this is a Finnish language event.

### **Thursday 5th: Independent Study.**

**9.30 - 16.00**

Independent Study for polishing all the assignments of the entire course in light of the lectures and other materials.

**Friday 6th: Class. Q202, Väre**

**9.30 - 12.00**

*Happy Worker* (2022)

Director John Webster and Producer Marko Talli / Yellow Film and TV.

**13.00 – 16.00**

Presenting the assignments for other members of the course. Delivery on My Courses platform.