

# COMM 6338 : Representing Reality – Mediating Fact, Fiction, and Truth

Filmmaker Werner Herzog famously claims, "Facts create norms, but truth creates illumination." In this course, we explore the important functional distinction between facts, actuality, and truth in representation and human experience by examining documentary film, Reality TV, documentary-realism in fiction media, and other intersections of what Herzog refers to as "stylization, fabrication, and imagination." We also survey the art and rhetoric of filmmaking by examining some of the most profound documentary films of the past and present, in order to analyze the strategic use of "reality" and "factuality" in media.

**Credits** 3

**Course ID**

009510

**Semester Offered**

Offered as needed