CTCS 469
TELEVISION DOCUMENTARY
Spring 2022
THURSDAYS
10AM-1:50PM
DR. KATHERINE STEINBACH
Course Description:

This seminar delves into the history and style of television documentary in America. Beginning with post-WWII political uproar and moving through current true-crime addictions, students will explore various non-fiction formats and innovations. We will continually ask how docs shape American identity, as well as how they stylistically intersect with other television content like news, reality shows, docudramas, or made-for-TV movies. Major theoretical concerns will revolve around mass society, citizenship, representation, consumerism, technological change, and audience effects. Screenings may include: See it Now (1951-58), Good Night, and Good Luck (2005), Primary (1960), An American Family (1973), She’s Nobody’s Baby (1981), America Undercover (1984-2006), Frontline (1983-), Eyes on the Prize (1987-1990), Planet Earth (2006), Last Chance U (2016-), Chef’s Table (2015-), Making a Murderer (2015-2018), Documentary Now! (2015-), and McMillions (2020).