Film Studies

Film studies is an interdisciplinary field of inquiry devoted to the analysis of the cinematic moving image both as a unique form in its own right and as a medium influenced and shaped by related fields such as literature, the social sciences and the arts. Film studies at Ohio State provides students with the means to understand and make critical judgments about film, the preeminent art form of the twentieth century, and the image-media experiences that inform their lives. Film studies scholars from many departments across the College of Arts and Sciences work together to construct an interdisciplinary exploration of the artistic and socio-historical traditions of this medium.

Pursuing Film Studies at Ohio State
All freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process; find admissions criteria at go.osu.edu/admissions. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in Film Studies within the College of Arts and Sciences.

Students interested in film studies should consult with an Arts and Sciences advisor and with the program’s academic advisor as soon as possible. English 2263, Introduction to Film, is a prerequisite for the major and fulfills part of the General Education (GE) requirement for the College of Arts and Sciences. This prerequisite should be taken early by any student potentially attracted to this major.

Courses are taught by internationally renowned faculty. The major focus area gives students the unique opportunity to craft an interdisciplinary concentration within the major.

Film Studies Requirements
The major in film studies comprises at least 39 credit hours. Students take the following courses which can be chosen from a list of approved film courses in various disciplines.

- Core courses (6 hours)
- Three credit hours each in the pre-1950s, multicultural, non-industrial, and non-fiction components
- Film electives (9 hours)
- Senior Seminar (3 hours)

Students must also complete nine credit hours in a focus area, a set of electives focused on a coherent theme or integrated course of study, chosen from throughout the university in consultation with the program’s academic advisor and director. This is an outstanding opportunity to explore interdisciplinary themes and is especially accommodating to students interested in a double major or minor. If the focus area cluster is deemed sufficiently rich in film studies material, students will be allowed to use one course in the cluster to meet other requirements in the major.

There is no foreign language requirement beyond the GE requirements, but all students, especially those whose focus area concentrates on a non-English speaking national cinema or topic, are encouraged to complete three semesters in a foreign language. Some classes and internship opportunities may only be available to those with advanced language skills.

Co-Curricular Opportunities
Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to study abroad programs to student organizations. Co-ops and internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students. Ohio State offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world. In addition, there are hundreds of student organizations on campus to meet the interests of a diverse student population.

These experiences enable students to gain valuable work experience, learn about cultures, and take on leadership roles before they enter the workforce. All of these experiences enhance learning and may provide an advantage in the job market.

Honors And Scholars Programs
Honors versions of several film studies courses are under development. Qualified students also may seek to complete a Senior Honors Thesis, in which they pursue an area of scholarship under the close supervision of a faculty member. Students majoring in film studies may apply to either the Humanities Scholars or Arts Scholars Programs. Ohio State’s Scholars programs provide students opportunities to live and learn with students with similar interests and incorporates specialized workshops, programming, mentoring and advising.

Learn more about Honors and Scholars programs at honors-scholars.osu.edu.

Career Prospects Through Film Studies
Traditionally, graduates with a BA in Film Studies pursue higher education in film studies or media-arts production, distribution,
Curriculum Sample
This is a sample list of classes a student who has opted for a focus area in screenwriting. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete General Education (GE) requirements. Because GE courses come from a variety of academic areas of study, this course work helps students develop fundamental skills essential to collegiate success and allows them to tailor these courses toward their interests. Note: This sample, focusing in screenwriting, represents only one of many possible concentrations to be determined by students in consultation with their advisor and the director on the path to a degree in Film Studies. Learn more at film-studies.osu.edu.

Freshman Year
Survey Course 1
First Year English Composition 3
Foreign Language 6
Introduction to Film 3
Introduction to World Cinema 3
GE Courses 15
Total Hours 31

Sophomore Year
Foreign Language 6
Introduction to Film Studies 3
Pre 1950’s Cinema 3
Multicultural Cinema 3
GE Courses 15
Total Hours 30

Junior Year
Film Studies Elective 3
Film Studies Focus Area/Intro to Screenwriting 3
Experimental and Avant-Garde Cinema 3
Documentary Film 3
GE Courses 18
Total Hours 30

Senior Year
Film Studies Focus Area/ Screenwriting and the Business of Cinema 3
Film Studies Electives 6
Film Studies Focus Area/ Advanced Screenwriting 3
Film Studies Senior Seminar 3
GE Courses 15
Total Hours 30

Revised September 2011. Information is subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the film studies major, visit film-studies.osu.edu.

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