FILM STUDIES

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wp.stolaf.edu/film

(Media and Film Studies)

Art, history, cultural studies, and technology come together in the interdisciplinary study of film: text meets sound and image, art meets science, economics meet aesthetics. Film studies addresses the inherently collaborative nature of a medium where directors, cinematographers, editors, actors, musicians, and set designers work together to create works of art. Films invite analysis and evaluation both as self-contained works of art, and as reflections of the historical and cultural circumstances in which they are created and consumed.

Overview of the Concentration

The film studies concentration equips students with basic skills of visual literacy (how to “read” the moving image), and the ability to understand the cultural, historical, and commercial contexts of films.

Intended Learning Outcomes for the Concentration

(http://wp.stolaf.edu/curriculum-committee/film-studies-concentration-ilos)

Requirements

The film studies concentration consists of five courses, at least three at level II or III, including:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FILM 101</td>
<td>Introduction to Film Studies</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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Studies in the history, theory or cultural meaning of film

Two elective courses that focus on the history, theory, or cultural expression of film within the United States or in a global context. These courses examine the production, critical evaluation, cultural history, and reception of film. Students take two courses to develop fluency with the critical and theoretical methods of the discipline (see list below).

Practical film studies

One elective course that focuses on practical aspects of film creation or criticism. These courses emphasize modern film as professional practice, asking students to master at least one of the main creative or technical skill sets used in film-making (see list below).

Integrative film studies

One more elective drawn from the above categories, or an integrative film topics course approved by the program (see list below), or a contract course worked out in consultation with the program director and the instructor. This course challenges students to synthesize their previous study of film in ways consistent with their own needs and interests, emphasizing the interdisciplinary nature of film studies. Students must present to the program director a brief explanation of how their work in this course synthesizes previous interests.

Total Credits 5

Note: no more than one course from another institution may count toward the concentration.

Courses that count toward the film studies concentration

The following courses are offered annually or biannually: Additional courses that count for film studies may be offered on a periodic or one-time basis. Students interested in having a course approved for film studies should consult the program director.

History, Theory, or Cultural Meaning of Film Courses

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 275</td>
<td>Literature and Film</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>FILM 201</td>
<td>American Film History</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>GERM 249</td>
<td>German Cinema (in English)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>NORW 130</td>
<td>Nordic Film Today</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>RUSSN 265</td>
<td>Introduction to Russian and Soviet Film (in English translation)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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Practical Film Studies Courses

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ART 104</td>
<td>Foundation New Media</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 228</td>
<td>Animated Art</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 229</td>
<td>Digital Filmmaking</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 150</td>
<td>Movement, the Camera, and the Creative Process</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 296</td>
<td>Screenwriting</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEAT 130</td>
<td>Introduction to Acting</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEAT 275</td>
<td>Writing for Performance</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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Integrative Film Studies Courses

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASIAN 156</td>
<td>Contemporary China Through Film (in English translation)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASIAN 230</td>
<td>The Philosophy of Anime</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREN 250</td>
<td>Speaking (of) French</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 290</td>
<td>Reel America: U.S. History in Film</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEDIA 160</td>
<td>The Media Landscape</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEDIA 260</td>
<td>Media and Screen Cultures</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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Courses

**FILM 101: Introduction to Film Studies**
This course provides an overview of film studies by focusing on three areas: history of film, production (the basic tools of film-making), and theory (the basic vocabulary of film analysis). Students develop visual literacy through engagement with the primary structures, methods, practitioners, history, ideas, and vocabularies of film studies. Counts toward media studies concentration.

**FILM 225: Documentary Film: The Challenge of Representing Reality**
This course explores the relevance and influence of documentary films by closely examining their aesthetic concerns, ethical implications, and real-world impacts. The course offers a condensed historical overview along with an examination of recent works. It combines screenings, readings, and discussions with the goal of preparing students both to understand and to analyze documentary films. This course does not have a production component. Offered alternate years.

**Prerequisite:** FILM 101 or permission of the instructor.

**FILM 230: Media and the Environment (abroad)**
This course will be taught off-campus, with one week at St. Olaf followed by three weeks in Iceland. Students study various media representations of nature, while specifically addressing the ways in which journalists, activists, filmmakers and artists have responded to global warming and climate change. Prior to departure students learn about documentary cinema and acquire introductory filmmaking experience. During their stay in Iceland, students attend lectures on media and climate change, discuss course topics with scholars and artists, and visit heterogeneous sites, including art museums, geothermal power plants and national parks. Course assignments include group presentations, a final exam, and a collaborative documentary filmmaking project.

**FILM 240: Film History**
This course provides a broad overview of the cinema from its beginnings to the present day, while introducing students to historically informed methods and arguments that have contributed to the shape and continuing development of film studies as a formal discipline. In addition to adopting a global perspective to explore the cinema's role as a powerful aesthetic, social, and cultural force, students examine key movements, conventions, practices, and periods that inform film history.

**Prerequisite:** Film 101 or permission of instructor. Counts toward the film studies concentration. Offered annually in the spring semester.

**FILM 294:**
**FILM 298:**
**FILM 394:**
**FILM 396:**
**FILM 398:**

**Faculty**

**Director, 2017-2018**

**Linda Y. Mokdad**
Assistant Professor of English
film history; classical film theory; feminist film theory; art cinema; Arab cinemas

**Karen R. Achberger**
Professor of German
German cinema; 20th-century German and Austrian literature; Ingeborg Bachmann; Green Germany; fin-de-siècle Vienna

**Brian Bjorklund**
Professor of Theater
design and technical theater; scene painting

**Kari Lie Dorer** (on leave fall)
Associate Professor of Norwegian
Norwegian language and culture; applied linguistics; Sami studies; Nordic film.

**Dona Freeman**
Artist in Residence in Theater
stage acting; acting Shakespeare; stage direction; period styles of acting

**Carlos Gallego** (on leave)
Associate Professor of English
Chicano/a studies; 20th century American literature; comparative ethnic studies; philosophy and critical theory; cultural studies

**Steven C. Hahn**
Professor of History
colonial America; Native American history; piracy

**Karil J. Kucera**
Professor of Art and Art History and Asian Studies
Asian art history; text/image; sacred sites

**Judy Kutulas** (on leave)
Professor of History
20th-century U.S. history; U.S. women's history; popular and material culture

**Justin W. Merritt**
Professor of Music
composition; theory; instrumentation; electronic music

**Diana O. Neal** (on leave)
Associate Professor of Nursing
pediatric nursing; neonatal intensive care nursing; complementary therapies

Bjorn Nordfjord
Visiting Associate Professor of English
American cinema; world cinema; crime fiction; adaptation and narrative theory

Rebecca S. Richards (on leave)
Associate Professor of English
rhetoric and composition; feminist/gender studies; media studies

Anthony W. Roberts
Artist in Residence in Dance
modern dance; dance technology; Companydance

Marc Robinson
Professor of Russian Language and Area Studies
Russian language; Russian film and literature; Russian theater

Matthew Rohn
Associate Professor of Art and Art History and Environmental Studies
19th-and 20th-century art; American culture; gender and multicultural studies; social justice; visual ecocriticism

William Sonnega
Associate Professor of Theater
theater; media studies

Mary E. Trull
Professor of English
16th- and 17th-century English literature

Karen Wilson (on leave Interim and spring)
Professor of Theater
theater; ethics and theater; directing; voice/phonetics