

FILM AND MEDIA STUDIES

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The Film and Media Studies (FMS) Program is committed to fostering visual literacy, promoting critical thinking and analysis, and encouraging students to engage meaningfully with a world in which images and screen-based media play an ever present and powerful role. Our program also embraces the inherently interdisciplinary aspects of film, serving students from programs and departments across the college (art, theater, English, psychology, sociology, history, philosophy, music, and so on). In addition to offering an interdisciplinary education that is faithful to the spirit of the liberal arts, the program addresses the specialized concerns of the field. We define and examine film and media broadly—as a variety of modes (narrative, experimental, and documentary) and outlets or screens (cinema, television, video, social media, video games, and streaming platforms). In exploring the specificities of these media, the program attends to aesthetics, form, and textuality but always within a larger context (the historical, cultural, social, political, and so on), to address national and global audiences, economies, and histories. The program also teaches practical skills and provides resources for students interested in pursuing paths that center on film and media production.

Intended Learning Outcomes for the Major/Concentration

Requirements

Requirements for the Major

Code	Title	Credits
Four Core Courses:		
FMS 101	Introduction to Film Studies	1.00
One of the following two:		1.00
FMS 140	Film History	
FMS 160	The Media Landscape	
AND		
FMS 280	Film and Media Theory	1.00
FMS 350	Topics in Film and Media Studies	1.00
Four Level II Elective Courses:		
Students must take at least two of these courses offered by the program. The courses below rotate topics and may be taken up to three times:		2.00
FMS 215	Topics: Genre	
FMS 235	Topics: Authorship	
FMS 245	Topics: National and Transnational Film and Media	
FMS 265	Topics: Film and Media Modes	
FMS 270	Topics: Film and Media History	
Students may choose two of their electives from the following courses offered inside and outside of the program. At least one of these courses must be a Level II course. Courses that are not offered regularly will require approval from the director.		2.00

ART 104	Foundation New Media	
ART 228	Animated Art	
ART 229	Digital Filmmaking	
ART 248	Los Angeles January Term (study away)	
ASIAN 156	Contemporary China Through Film (in English translation)	
ASIAN 224	Page to Screen: Modern Japanese Literature in Film	
ENGL 209	Arab American Literature and Film	
ENGL 275	Literature and Film	
ENGL 280	Topics in Genre (when topic is American Cinema)	
ENGL 286	Topics in Rhetoric and Composition (when topic is The Rhetoric of Video Games)	
ENGL 296	Screenwriting	
FMS 250	Video News Reporting	
GERM 249	German Cinema (in English)	
HIST 290	Reel America: U.S. History in Film	
NORW 130	Nordic Film Today	
RUSSN 265	Introduction to Russian and Soviet Film (in English translation)	
THEAT 130	Introduction to Acting	
Two Production Courses:		
FMS 220	Film and Media Production (required)	1.00
One course may be taken from the following courses offered inside and outside of the program:		1.00
ART 104	Foundation New Media	
ART 228	Animated Art	
ART 229	Digital Filmmaking	
ART 248	Los Angeles January Term (study away)	
ENGL 296	Screenwriting	
FMS 250	Video News Reporting	
FMS 320	Advanced Film and Media Production	
THEAT 130	Introduction to Acting	
Total Credits		10

Students may petition to have courses that are not designated as approved courses count toward the major. Both the course instructor and director of the program must grant their approval in such a situation.

No more than two courses from other institutions may count toward the major.

**By completing this major, the student also satisfies the OLE Core Writing in the Major requirement.*

Requirements for the Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
Two Core Courses:		
FMS 101	Introduction to Film Studies	1.00
One of the following two:		1.00
FMS 140	Film History	
FMS 160	The Media Landscape	
Two Electives that Engage with the Culture, History, or Theory of Film and Media:		2.00
ART 248	Los Angeles January Term (study away)	
ASIAN 156	Contemporary China Through Film (in English translation)	
ASIAN 224	Page to Screen: Modern Japanese Literature in Film	
ENGL 209	Arab American Literature and Film	
ENGL 275	Literature and Film	
ENGL 280	Topics in Genre (when topic is American Cinema)	
ENGL 286	Topics in Rhetoric and Composition (when topic is The Rhetoric of Video Games)	
FMS 215	Topics: Genre	
FMS 235	Topics: Authorship	
FMS 245	Topics: National and Transnational Film and Media	
FMS 265	Topics: Film and Media Modes	
FMS 270	Topics: Film and Media History	
FMS 280	Film and Media Theory	
FMS 350	Topics in Film and Media Studies	
GERM 249	German Cinema (in English)	
HIST 290	Reel America: U.S. History in Film	
NORW 130	Nordic Film Today	
RUSSN 265	Introduction to Russian and Soviet Film (in English translation)	
One Production Course:		1.00
ART 104	Foundation New Media	
ART 228	Animated Art	
ART 229	Digital Filmmaking	
ART 248	Los Angeles January Term (study away)	
ENGL 296	Screenwriting	
FMS 220	Film and Media Production	
FMS 250	Video News Reporting	
FMS 260	Media and Screen Cultures	
FMS 320	Advanced Film and Media Production	
THEAT 130	Introduction to Acting	
Total Credits		5

Students may petition to have courses that are not designated as approved courses count toward the major. Both the course instructor and director of the program must grant their approval in such a situation.

No more than two courses from other institutions may count toward the major.

Courses

FMS 101: *Introduction to Film Studies*

This course is an introduction to film analysis. Students learn the language used to describe and understand various features and aspects of the cinema. In addition to exploring the elements that make up a film, students also think carefully about the decisions, techniques, and strategies that inform film production. Topics of study include narrative, mise-en-scene, cinematography, editing, film sound, and, later in the course, broader categories of classification such as genre and mode.

FMS 140: *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. Offered annually in the spring semester.

FMS 160: *The Media Landscape*

This course encourages students to critically assess and shape their personal relationship to the media landscape. Its premise is that we are all, to some extent, uninformed and uncritical consumers of media products, services and effects rather than conscientious and civically engaged users of them. In this spirit, this course is designed to give students a theoretical, as well as practical, experience with issues of gender, race, class, and sexuality as they manifest in mediated artifacts of popular culture. The course is taught from a media studies perspective where students gain skills in critical analysis and media literacy. Concepts of power, privilege, justice, representation, hegemony, consumption and resistance are woven throughout course readings, images, assignments and discussions. Offered twice annually. Also counts toward film studies concentration.

FMS 215: *Topics: Genre*

Hollywood and other popular cinemas around the world divide their film narratives into different genres like melodrama, horror, musicals, science fiction, film noir, and gangster cinema. Some of these genres stem from literature and theater, and most have subsequently influenced television, video games, and other media production. In this course students analyze the history and characteristics of one of these genres in detail or compare and contrast influential examples of genre production. May be repeated if topics are different. Offered alternate years in the fall semester beginning fall semester 2021-22.

FMS 220: *Film and Media Production*

This course introduces students to film and media production. The course rotates topics to accommodate various modes of production such as documentary, experimental, and narrative filmmaking. Students view and study film, learn the creative and technical skills associated with the course's focus, as well as participate in their own film and media productions. Offered annually.

Prerequisites: FMS 101 or FMS 160 recommended.

FMS 235: Topics: Authorship

For much of film history the film director has been considered to be an author not unlike a writer of a novel or composer of a symphony. In this course students closely analyze the authorship of influential film directors, while also critically evaluating the role of the director along with the many other artists and workers that contribute to the meaning and production of film. May be repeated if topics are different. Offered alternate years in the spring semester beginning spring semester 2021-22.

FMS 245: Topics: National and Transnational Film and Media

This course focuses on the film and/or media production of a particular nation, region, or economic and cultural partnership across borders. It gives students a historical overview of influential national and transnational cinemas, or other global media products. May be repeated if topics are different. Offered alternate years in the spring semester beginning spring semester 2021-22.

FMS 250: Video News Reporting

This course focuses on the practices, ethics and challenges of video journalism in a digital age. Students learn imaged-based journalism through academic analyses, review of stories reported by Twin Cities newsrooms, and hands-on production of multiple video broadcast and online news stories. Students acquire video shooting, editing and interviewing skills relevant to the workplace today. The course includes two trips to the Twin Cities to visit the studio and Capitol bureau of KARE 11, the NBC television affiliate in Minneapolis. Offered periodically.

FMS 260: Media and Screen Cultures

This course focuses on screen-based media, from television to film, social media platforms to video games, from theoretical and critical perspectives. Primary emphasis is on the diverse ways screen media production, distribution, and consumption inform contemporary issues in the public sphere. In particular, the course examines media discourses on identity, agency, and privacy, and how communication technologies, data aggregation, and targeted marketing help or hinder democracy and the dismantling of structural inequalities. Offered alternate years. Also counts toward business and management studies concentration.

Prerequisite: FMS 160 or permission of instructor.

FMS 265: Topics: Film and Media Modes

In this course, students learn about the history, theory, and practice of a specific film or medium mode. This can include such modes as documentary cinema, experimental film and media, animation, television, video games, or social media such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. May be repeated if topics are different. Offered alternate years in the fall semester beginning fall semester 2021-22.

FMS 270: Topics: Film and Media History

This course closely examines a specific period in the history of cinema or other media. Students study the relationship between film and media texts and their historical context and social environment. The course rotates topics to emphasize either an influential period (national or global) or historical movements. May be repeated if topics are different. Offered alternate years in the fall semester beginning fall semester 2021-22.

FMS 280: Film and Media Theory

This course is an introduction to the major figures, concepts, and debates in film and media theory (1915 to the present day). Although a historical framework informs the structure of this course, students are strongly encouraged to observe similarities and differences within the same schools of theory as well as across different theoretical models and periods. Topics of study include formative and realist film theory, psychoanalysis, semiotics, new and digital media, feminist media theory, and postmodernism. Offered annually in the spring semester beginning spring semester 2021-22.

Prerequisite: FMS 101 or permission of instructor.

FMS 295: Internship and Reflection Seminar

This seminar integrates the liberal arts with the experience of work and the search for a vocation or career. Course content will include both an off-campus internship and on-campus class sessions that connect academic theories/analyses of work with their particular internship experience. Students will also consider and articulate the value of the liberal arts for their pursuit of a creative, productive, and satisfying professional life.

FMS 320: Advanced Film and Media Production

This is an advanced film and media production course that builds upon students' prior skills in the field. It gives them the opportunity to further develop their expertise and skills in developing advanced film and media projects. The course rotates topics to accommodate various approaches and types of film and media production. Offered periodically.

Prerequisite: FMS 220 Film and Media production or comparable course.

FMS 350: Topics in Film and Media Studies

This advanced course rotates between various topics in film that may include genres and styles, authorship, national and transnational cinemas, industrial history, and film's relationship to other art forms and popular culture at large. Students study films within a context that emphasizes specialized theoretical, cultural, or historical concerns and questions. May be repeated if topic is different. Offered annually in the spring semester.

Prerequisite: FMS 101.

Film and Media Studies Courses in Other Departments

ART 104 Foundation New Media

ART 228 Animated Art

ART 229 Digital Filmmaking

ASIAN 156 Contemporary China Through Film (in English translation)

ASIAN 224 Page to Screen: Modern Japanese Literature in Film

ENGL 209 Arab American Literature and Film

ENGL 275 Literature and Film

ENGL 280 Topics in Genre (when topic is American Cinema)

ENGL 296 Screenwriting

GERM 249 German Cinema (in English)

HIST 290 Reel America: U.S. History in Film

NORW 130 Nordic Film Today

RUSSN 265 Introduction to Russian and Soviet Film (in English translation)

THEAT 130 Introduction to Acting

Faculty

Director, 2023-2024

Björn Nordfjörd

Associate Professor of Practice of English
American cinema; world cinema; crime fiction; adaptation and narrative theory

Ryan Eichberger

Visiting Assistant Professor of English

Linda Y. Mokdad

Associate Professor of English
film history; classical film theory; feminist film theory; art cinema; Arab cinemas

William Sonnega

Associate Professor of Theater; Patrick J. Quade Endowed Chair in Theater
theater; media studies