

## Film Studies

Advisory Committee: **Knight** (Director, English/American Studies), **Anemone** (on leave 2007-2008) (Modern Languages), **Begley** (English), **Burns** (English), **Joyce** (English), **Kennedy** (English), **MacGowan** (English), **Preston** (Music), **Prokhorov** (Modern Languages), **Stock** (Modern Languages), **Taylor** (Modern Languages), **Zuber** (English).

The minor in Film Studies, administered through the Charles Center for Honors and Interdisciplinary Studies, provides interested students a coherent education in this major art form, one that-along with television-is perhaps the predominant way that Western culture represents itself. Film has become an increasingly significant and popular part of the humanities curriculum at the College; a number of disciplines-Modern Languages and Literatures, American Studies, English, and Literary and Cultural Studies-regularly offer courses about film or use films to increase understanding of other art forms. The Film Studies minor provides students the opportunity to organize these disciplinary and interdisciplinary courses into a meaningful curriculum. Students may also use the minor as a basis for a major in Literary and Cultural Studies focusing on film (see Literary and Cultural Studies).

Students wishing to pursue a minor in Film Studies should meet with a member of the Advisory Committee as early as is possible, normally during their sophomore year.

### Requirements

#### Required Credit Hours: 18

**Core Requirements:** Distributed as follows:

- I. At least nine credit hours in required courses:
  - A. FILM 150W or 250 (4 credits). "Introduction to Film Studies."
  - B. FILM 251 (3 credits). "World Cinema Before TV (1895-1955)."
  - C. FILM 306 (3 credits). "Motion Picture Production Workshop" OR one course chosen from the following: ART 211 or 212; ENGL 206 or 306; MUSC 201 or 320; THEA 151/151W, 206, 301, 303, 317, 318.
- II. Nine credit hours in elective courses, taken after consultation with a member of the Advisory Committee. Courses might include the following:
  - AMST 202: Cinema and the Modernization of US Culture
  - ANTH 348: Japanese Values Through Literature and Film
  - FILM 350: Documentary
  - FREN 310: French Cinema (taught in French)
  - HISP 417: Hispanic Cinema (taught in Spanish)
  - MUSC 375: Music and Film
  - RUSN 309: Topics in Russian Cinema (in English Translation)
  - FILM 480: Independent Study
  - FILM 498: Internship

And special topics courses as appropriate.

**Note:** No more than two courses from the department or program in which the student majors may be counted toward the Film Studies minor; in the case of students majoring in interdisciplinary programs, no more than two courses being counted toward the major may be counted toward the Film minor as well.

### Description of Courses

#### 150W. Introduction to Film Studies.

(GER 5) Fall (4) *Kennedy, Zuber.*

A freshman seminar in film as an independent aesthetic form, treating the formal and narrative components of film and briefly introducing students to the history of film and the comparison of films made in the United States with those made in other countries. This course satisfies the freshman writing requirement.

#### 250. Introduction to Film Studies.

(GER 5) Fall (4) *Knight.*

An introduction to film as an independent aesthetic form, treating the formal and narrative components of film and briefly introducing students to the history of film and the comparison of films made in the United States with those made in other countries. Shares the same course content as FILM 150W, but designed for students who have already completed their freshman seminar/writing proficiency requirement. Students must take either 150W or 250 for the Film Studies minor, and they may not take both courses for credit.

#### 251. World Cinema Before TV (1895-1955).

(GER 5) Spring (3) *Prokhorov.*

An overview of the history of world cinema(s), focusing on the technological development of filmmaking; popular and narrative film forms; the social, cultural, and political frameworks of various cinemas; and non-dominant cinema. Students are strongly encouraged to take Film 150W/250 before taking Film 251.

#### 306. Video Production.

(GER 6) Fall (3) *Zuber. Prerequisites: FILM 150W/250, 251.*

Students in this workshop-style course will produce short videos, from the idea stage through editing, while experiencing the collaborative nature of production.

#### 350. Documentary.

Spring (3) *Zuber.*

A historical survey of documentary film. This course explores the wide range of documentary impulses, from ethnographic films like *Nanook of the North* to Nazi propaganda like *Triumph of the Will* to "reality" productions like MTV's *Real World*.

#### 351. Special Topics in Film Studies.

Fall, Spring (1-4) *Staff.*

Exploration of a particular topic in Film Studies. This course may be repeated for credit.

#### Topic Offered Fall 2007: On Adaptation.

Fall (3) *Kennedy.*

This course examines modern film adaptations that specifically and self-consciously address the problems of (mis)representation in images, and in terms of recent developments in literary and film criticism (and so students should have already taken at least one advanced course in literature or film). We will examine film adaptations of different prose media (drama, short story, novella, novel, and comic book) in light of the work of thinkers ranging from Plato to Michel Foucault to Laura Mulvey. Cross listed with ENGL 412 01.

#### 401. Seminar in Film Studies.

Fall, Spring (3-4) *Staff.*

Study in depth of a specialized topic in Film Studies. This course may be repeated for credit.

#### Topic Offered Fall 2007: Film & Laughter: Theories, Cultures, & Genres.

Fall (3) *Prokhorov.*

Since the earliest days of cinema, film comedy has been one of the most popular, prevalent, and persistent genres-ranging from the primitive burlesques of Edison or Melies through the contemporary satires of Terry Gilliam and Michael Moore. It has also been a form strongly tied to its socio-political form-be it Chaplin's savagery of Hitler in the *Great Dictator* or Kubrick's sarcastic view of nuclear armament in *Dr. Strangelove*, or Robert Downey's parody of post-war advertising culture in *Putney Swope*. The course examines film comedy and satire from the broad perspective of cultural studies; evaluate the application to the cinema of various established theories of comedy developed in other fields (Bergson, Freud, Bakhtin, Frye, Hutcheon); comprehend the contribution of film theory/criticism to the topic (Noel Carroll on Keaton, William Paul on gross

out comedy, Lucy Fischer and Kathleen Rowe on Gender and Comic Genres); and analyze some of the basic modes of comic construction in film (chase film, screwball, romance, slapstick, etc.).

**480. Independent Study.**

*Fall and Spring (1-3, 1-3) Knight.*

A program combining (as appropriate to the topic) extensive viewing, production, writing, reading and/or discussion in a specific area of Film Studies. The syllabus for this tutorial will be agreed upon by the student and instructor and approved in advance by the Coordinator of the Film Studies Minor. This course is open only to students who have completed at least half the requirements for the Film Studies Minor and may ordinarily only be taken once.

**498. Internship.**

*Fall and Spring (1-3, 1-3) Knight.*

A directed readings/research course in conjunction with an internship experience. Must be approved in advance by the Coordinator of the Film Studies Minor prior to the student's participation in the internship. This course is open only to students who have completed at least half the requirements for the Film Studies Minor and may ordinarily only be taken once.