FILM STUDIES MAJOR

MAJOR DESCRIPTION

The College of Film and the Moving Image (CFILM) encompasses the Film Studies Department, the Center for Film Studies, the Student Film Series, and the Wesleyan Cinema Archives. The College approaches the moving image as an art in all its various forms, whether fiction, documentary, experimental, live-action, or animated, and in all its various venues, whether in cinemas, on television, in galleries, on the Internet, or on consumer/home formats. The College is designed specifically for liberal arts undergraduates who benefit most from the marriage of image making, history, and studies.

ADMISSION TO THE MAJOR

The requirements for admission include a minimum overall academic average of B (85.0) and the successful completion by the middle of the sophomore year of two designated entry-level courses with a grade of B+ or better in each. Entry to the major is possible only after completion of these two courses and application to the film major. To apply, students must meet with the department chair by the end of first semester of their sophomore year and place their names on the list of potential majors. Students on this list will receive an application form. Students who do not meet with the department chair will not receive an application or be considered for the major. Applications will be evaluated based on performance in film studies classes (including but not limited to grades) and any other factors deemed pertinent.

Because of the prerequisites and major requirements, students transferring to Wesleyan after their first semester sophomore year are not able to declare the film studies major.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

- All students must take two designated prerequisite courses and earn a grade of B+ or better in each to be eligible for the major.
- After entry to the major, students must take the required production course.
- Students must also take a minimum of seven film studies electives.
- Students may count a maximum of 16 credits in any single department toward the 32 credits required for graduation. Credits that exceed this limit will count as oversubscription.
- The Film Major does not require a senior thesis.

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

Please see our departmental website for further information regarding the specifics of our major (wesleyan.edu/filmstudies/cfilm). Please be aware that cross-listed courses must be counted in all departments in which they are listed.

Course offerings vary from year to year and not all courses are available in every year. With prior approval by the department chair, one history/theory course from another institution may be transferred to the Wesleyan major from study abroad. The department does not offer group or individual tutorials other than senior thesis projects, but uncredited opportunities to work on individual senior

files are available. Consult the chair of film studies for further details. The Film Studies Department does not offer credit for internships.

Students may become involved in film studies in ways other than class enrollment. The College of Film and the Moving Image houses the Wesleyan Cinema Archives. The Film Board (composed of Wesleyan students) runs the Wesleyan Film Series. The College of Film also hosts the Wesleyan Freshman/Sophomore Filmmaking Workshop.

PREREQUISITE CLASSES

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FILM304</td>
<td>History of Global Cinema</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>FILM307</td>
<td>The Language of Hollywood: Styles, Storytelling, and Technology</td>
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REQUIRED COURSES AFTER ENTRY INTO THE MAJOR

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<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>FILM450</td>
<td>Sight and Sound Workshop (in junior year)</td>
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REQUIRED FILM STUDIES ELECTIVES

Select a minimum of seven of the following:

- FILM250: Computational Media: Videogame Development
- FILM301: The History of Spanish Cinema
- FILM305: Sophomore Colloquium for Declaring Majors
- FILM308: The ‘Hollywood’ Musical
- FILM309: Immersion Seminar: Film Noir
- FILM314: Directorial Style: Classic American Film Comedy
- FILM315: Myth and Ideology in Cinema: Hollywood Sex, Race, Class, and Culture
- FILM318: Awesome Cinema: Religion, Art, and the Unrepresentable
- FILM319: Television Storytelling: The Conditions of Narrative Complexity
- FILM320: The New German Cinema
- FILM322: Alfred Hitchcock
- FILM324: Visual Storytelling: The History and Art of Hollywood's Master Storytellers
- FILM326: At Home in the World: Transnational Women's Cinema
- FILM329: Introduction to Indian Cinema: 'Bollywood' and Beyond
- FILM330: The Art and Business of Contemporary Film
- FILM331: Video Games as/and the Moving Image: Art, Aesthetics, and Design
- FILM333: Introduction to Russian and Soviet Cinema
- FILM336: Silent Storytelling
- FILM341: The Cinema of Horror
- FILM342: Cinema of Adventure and Action
- FILM346: Contemporary East Asian Cinema
- FILM347: Melodrama and the Woman's Picture
- FILM348: Postwar American Independent Cinema
- FILM349: Television: The Domestic Medium
to audience, or audience to film to creator. No matter the level of the course or the nature of the discussion, we maintain a direct route from our intellectual activity to filmmakers’ choices and audience experiences. In contrast to graduate programs, which separate practice from study or teach methods of scholarship, we teach about the films themselves in a jargon-free classroom.

**MISSION OF THE FILM MINOR**

The film studies minor offers the same fundamental orientation as the major, but in a more flexible format that accommodates different course clusters. Its mission is to deliver a substantial and encompassing curriculum in film and media studies through an interdisciplinary approach that highlights global culture.

**OUR PEDAGOGICAL GOALS**

Our broad goal is to foster the critical understanding of cinema and television as art forms. To all students, both general education and majors, we offer a unified perspective that enables students to think critically about form and the choices that visual storytellers must face. This orientation toward intensive aesthetic analysis is unique in undergraduate film and media programs. No other liberal arts film program features such a broad and deep background in analysis and history coupled with sensitivity to film’s immediate and intimate relationship with audiences.

Our majors develop a critical and creative approach to the medium based on a strong visual vocabulary, extensive viewing, and a grasp of film production. Production and studies are mutually reinforcing in this environment. Our 16mm and digital production courses facilitate deeper comprehension of film and television’s formal complexities and demand a higher level of critical and analytical thinking. Likewise, students steeped in history and analysis bring a robust visual vocabulary and awareness of formal problem-solving to the tasks of filmmaking. Upon graduation, majors know how to make a movie; are experienced in all forms of film and television writing; understand film history; can offer original solutions to artistic problems; and are capable of extending our knowledge of the moving image.

Our major demands and rewards original critical thinking. We believe that true learning involves synthesis, discovery, and original thought. Our students must face the challenge of defining and resolving artistic, historical, and analytical problems on their own, while also learning to work in collaboration. We encourage students to develop a personal vision, take risks, problem solve, and learn from failure as well as success.

**LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT**

There is no foreign language requirement for Film Studies majors.

**HONORS**

Film Studies majors are not required to complete Gen Ed requirements to be Honors Candidates in Film.

Film Studies majors are not required to complete senior thesis projects to fulfill their major program of study. However, large percentages of majors do opt for a senior thesis, which can take the form of a written history thesis, a screenplay, a 16mm film, a digital video, a virtual filmmaking project, a film criticism project, or an archival project. Senior theses provide majors with the opportunity to advance what they have learned in their previous coursework through an extended individual project. Film Studies maintains a rigorous approach to evaluating theses, but also provides close, one-on-one advising. Prizes exist for
all forms of senior thesis work. A senior thesis is a privilege that we try to extend to all majors.

Those students wishing to make a senior thesis film, video, or virtual project must complete their introductory production course (Sight and Sound or Introduction to Digital) during their junior year.

**CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE**

The College of Film and the Moving Image provides an array of Capstone Experiences, including:

- Advanced senior filmed thesis
- Advanced senior digital thesis
- Advanced senior screenplay thesis
- Advanced television writing thesis
- Advanced film criticism project
- Senior paper
- Archival project
- Senior film board participation
- Senior presentation week participation
- Post-graduate transition program
- Optional Capstone outside major
- No Capstone