

FILM STUDIES MAJOR

MAJOR DESCRIPTION

The Major in Film Studies enables students to explore the moving image through a distinctive blending of history, analysis, and production. Studies focus on the art and craft of visual storytelling and the language of filmmaking in all its various forms—fiction, documentary, live-action, or animated—and venues such as cinema, television, and the internet. Film Studies majors in the College of Film and the Moving Image (CFILM) avail themselves of Wesleyan's rich and unique resources in the Film Studies Department, the Jeanine Basinger Center for Film Studies, WesDocs, the Student Film Series, and the Ogden and Mary Louise Reid Cinema Archives. Courses in history, analysis, and hands-on production facilitate a deep understanding of the medium.

Film Studies majors often bring an imaginative, creative mindset, a passion for visual storytelling, technical curiosity, and a collaborative nature. They may have a broad, eclectic taste in movies and television, a critical eye, an awareness of the industry, and multidisciplinary interests in the humanities and sciences.

Film Studies students develop a critical and creative approach to the medium based on a strong visual vocabulary, extensive viewing, and a grasp of film production. Upon graduation, majors know how to make a movie, are experienced in film and television writing, understand film history, can offer original visions, and can extend our knowledge of the moving image. We encourage students to develop a personal vision, collaborate, take risks, solve problems, and learn from both failure and success.

ADMISSION TO THE MAJOR

The requirements for admission include a minimum overall academic average of B (85.0) and the successful completion 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 one of the Film Department Advisors by the end of the first semester of their sophomore year and place their names on the list of potential majors. The Film Department Advisors are Stephen Collins, Scott Higgins, Anuja Jain, Marc Longenecker, Sadia Shepard, Michael Slowik, and Tracy Strain. Students on this list will receive an application form. 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 eligible to declare the film studies major.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

To fulfill the major, students must satisfactorily complete 10 Film Studies courses, including:

- Two introductory courses—Film 304: History of Global Cinema and Film 307: The Language of Popular Cinema
- One basic production course—Film 450: Sight and Sound Workshop
- A minimum of six Film elective courses and

- FILM 456 (senior thesis) or one additional elective
- 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.
- Courses taken CR/U are not counted toward Major requirements.

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

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 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 credit for internships or student forums, but uncredited opportunities to work on senior films 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 and the Wesleyan Documentary Project. 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

Code	Title	Hours
FILM304	History of Global Cinema	1
FILM307	Cinematic Storytelling: Styles, Tools, and Journeys	1

REQUIRED COURSES AFTER ENTRY INTO THE MAJOR

Code	Title	Hours
FILM450	Sight and Sound Workshop (in junior year)	1

- FILM 456 (senior thesis) or one additional elective listed below
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REQUIRED FILM STUDIES ELECTIVES

Code	Title	Hours
Select a minimum of six of the following:		6
FILM250	Computational Media: Videogame Development	
FILM301	History of Spanish Cinema	
FILM305	Sophomore Colloquium for Declaring Majors	
FILM308	The "Hollywood" Musical	
FILM309	Film Noir	
FILM314	Directorial Style: Classic American Film Comedy	
FILM318	Awesome Cinema: Religion, Art, and the Unrepresentable	
FILM319	Television Storytelling: The Conditions of Narrative Complexity	
FILM322	Alfred Hitchcock	

FILM323	Film and Anthropology	1
FILM324	Visual Storytelling: The History and Art of Hollywood's Master Storytellers	
FILM326	At Home in the World: Transnational Women's Cinema	
FILM329	Bollywood and Beyond: Introduction to Indian Cinema	
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	
FILM349	Television: The Domestic Medium	
FILM348	Postwar American Independent Cinema	1
FILM396	Black Cinema in the U.S.	1
FILM347	Melodrama and the Woman's Picture	1
FILM350	Contemporary International Art Cinema	
FILM435	Directing the Documentary	1
FILM358	Italian Cinema: 1945-1965	
FILM360	Philosophy and the Movies: The Past on Film	
FILM366	Elia Kazan's Films and Archives	
FILM370	The Art of Film Criticism	
FILM372	Hong Kong Cinema	
FILM395	Autobiographical Storytelling	
FILM397	Cinema and City in Asia	
FILM381	The Films and Influences of Martin Scorsese	
FILM448	Directing Actors for the Camera	1
FILM384	Documentary Storytelling	
FILM385	Documentary History: An Introduction	
FILM387	Seminar on Television Series and Aesthetics	
FILM388	Global Film Auteurs	
FILM389	Film Genres: The Western	
FILM390	History of Film Sound	
FILM391	Sex and Violence: American Film-making Under Censorship	
FILM392	Cinema Stylists: Sternberg, Ophuls, Sirk, Fellini	
FILM409	Senior Thesis Tutorial	
FILM430	Documentary Production	
FILM453	The Art and Craft of Film Adaptation	
FILM454	Screenwriting	
FILM455	Writing for Television	
FILM456	Advanced Filmmaking	
FILM458	Screenwriting: The Short Film	
FILM459	Writing for Television II	
FILM460	TV Writer's Room	
FILM290	Global Film Melodrama	
FILM203	Hollywood and Big Data	1
FILM312	The Short Film: Study and Practice	1

OPTIONAL FILM/TELEVISION COURSES - DOES NOT COUNT TOWARD ELECTIVE CREDIT

Code	Title	Hours
FILM410	Senior Thesis Tutorial	
FILM457	Advanced Filmmaking	

Note: The oversubscription rule limits students to a maximum of 16 credits in a single department before oversubscription occurs, at which point further credits earned in the department cannot count toward the 32 credits required for graduation.

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS

MISSION OF THE FILM MAJOR

The mission of the film studies major is to deliver the finest undergraduate film, television, and media education through our distinctive blending of history, analysis, and production. The major explores moving image art and culture by looking at what is on screen using the language of filmmakers. We highlight visual storytelling. 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 with fewer requirements and an emphasis on cross-listed classes. Its mission is to deliver an encompassing curriculum in film and media studies through an interdisciplinary approach.

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 face. No other liberal arts film program features such a broad and deep background in analysis, culture, and history coupled with sensitivity to film and television'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 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 form and culture to the tasks of storytelling. Upon graduation, majors know how to make a movie, are experienced in film and television writing, understand film history, can offer original visions, and are capable of extending our knowledge of the moving image.

Our major demands and rewards 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, solve problems, and learn from failure as well as success.

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, an advanced television project, or a film criticism 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.

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 16mm filmed thesis
- Advanced senior digital thesis
- Advanced documentary thesis
- Advanced senior screenplay thesis
- Advanced television thesis
- Advanced film criticism project
- Senior paper
- Senior film board participation
- Senior presentation week participation
- Optional Capstone outside major
- No Capstone