

Film Studies

College of Arts & Humanities

Department of English

Chair: Matthew Sewell

Film Studies Program

230 Armstrong Hall – 507-389-2117

Website: <http://english.mnsu.edu/film/index.html>

Donna R. Casella, Film Studies Director, 507-389-5260

Faculty: Donna R. Casella, Brandon Cooke, Geoffrey Herbach, Nadja Kramer, Donald Larsson, Matthew Sewell, Richard Terrill

The Film Studies Minor is a liberal arts program that teaches students to look at film from aesthetic, historical, and cultural perspectives. The practice of critical viewing and analysis can be applied in a wide variety of occupations. Career opportunities for graduates with a film studies minor include jobs with film companies, film, archives and festivals. The minor also prepares students for graduate work in film studies.

POLICIES/INFORMATION

The Film Studies Minor is housed inside the English Department. Students may major in any English program with a Film Studies Minor. However, a course used to meet the requirements of an English major cannot be used to meet the requirements of a Film Studies Minor.

Students must earn a “C” or better for a course to apply to their minor.
P/N Grading Policy. Courses leading to a Film Studies Minor may not be taken on a P/N basis unless the course is an Internship or Independent Study or Independent Writing.

Film Studies Minor

Minor Core

FILM	114	Introduction to Film (4)
FILM	329	Film History (4)
FILM	416	Film Theory and Criticism (4)

Minor Elective

(choose 8 credits; 4 credits must be at the 300-400 level International film course)

FILM	210W	Film Genres (4)
FILM	214	Topics in Film (1-4)
FILM	216W	Writing About Film (4)
FILM	217	Introduction to Film Production (4)
FILM	317	Advanced Film Production (4)
FILM	334W	International Cinema (4)
FILM	493	Topics in Film Studies (1-4)
GER	460	Topics in German Cinema (4)
PHIL	465	Philosophy of Film (3)

FILM 110 (4) Film Appreciation

Promotes appreciation and understanding of cinema through the study of film style, film history, film genres, and the cultural impact of films.

Variable

GE-6

FILM 114 (4) Introduction to Film

Study and analysis of the elements basic to a critical understanding of film: story elements; visual design; cinematography and color; editing and special effects; functions of sound and music; styles of acting and directing; and functions of genre and social beliefs.

GE-6

FILM 210W (4) Film Genres

Study and analysis of the techniques, thematic conventions, and cultural and

historical contexts of major film genres including the western, the musical, crime, melodrama, science fiction, and gangster. Films will include a mix of classic and contemporary examples.

Fall

WI, GE-6

FILM 214 (1-4) Topics in Film

Courses will explore specialized topics in film. May be repeated as topics change.

GE-6

FILM 216W (4) Writing About Film

Studies analytical film language in several different film writing forms, including short- and long-form reviews, collaborative analysis, and formal critical essays. Emphasizes social and critical contexts needed for film analysis and practice of writing in these film forms.

Variable

WI, GE-6

FILM 217 (4) Introduction to Film Production

Introduces fundamentals of film production: writing, producing, directing, lighting, shooting, and editing, through lecture, critiquing the work of other filmmakers, and hands on production. By the end of this course students will be ready to pursue their own film projects.

Fall, Spring

GE-6, GE-11

FILM 317 (4) Advanced Film Production

Designed for students who have prior experience and want to make an experimental, narrative and/or documentary film. Students will move from screenplay/proposal to production and post production of short films. May be repeated

Pre: FILM 217 or permission of instructor

Fall, Spring

FILM 329 (4) Film History

The course is designed to give students a foundation in film history. The course focuses on major directors, genres, and periods in film history with an emphasis on social technological and critical context in order to provide an analytical framework that will support subsequent work.

FILM 334W (4) International Cinema

Introduces students to film from a variety of world cultures. Designed to increase knowledge of world cultures and appreciation and understanding of cultural differences in representation. Emphasizes history of national cinemas, film analysis, and writing.

Variable

WI, GE-6, GE-8

Diverse Cultures – Purple

FILM 416 (4) Film Theory and Criticism

Trends in film theory and criticism. Practice in critical analysis.

Pre: FILM 329 or permission of instructor

Variable

FILM 493 (1-4) Topics in Film Studies

Topic-oriented course in film studies. May be repeated with change in topic.

Variable

FILM 498 (1-6) Internship

On-site field experience, the nature of which is determined by the specific needs of the student's program plan.

Pre: Consent of instructor

Fall, Spring, Summer

FILM 499 (1-4) Individual Study

Extensive reading, research, writing and/or film production in an area for which the student has had basic preparation.

Pre: Consent of instructor

Fall, Spring, Summer