

Film Studies

What is Film Studies?

Think of your favorite film. What did you like about it? The story? The characters? The action? The overall look? If movies mean more to you than just entertainment, this may be the right major for you.

Students in UWM's film studies program learn about the history, theory, and criticism of film, television and digital media. You will discuss and write about these areas critically; make connections between these media, historical themes and cultural change; analyze the impact of film, television and digital media on individuals and society; and compare different media formats.

In a wide array of courses, students study classical and contemporary film history, theory and criticism; global/international cinemas (French new wave, Latin American); genres (horror, western, film noir); major directors (Woody Allen, Alfred Hitchcock); and television, digital media and game theory.

Film Studies at UWM

UWM's film studies program offers a cross-department major and minor that blends courses in film studies with classes from English, comparative literature, art history, French, Italian, and journalism and mass communication. The program promotes the study of cinema and media in their aesthetic, social, cultural, political and technological contexts and expands students' understanding of cinema and media as essential components of our global culture.

Career Opportunities

Students who go into film studies often pursue a career in creative professions, whether directly in film or a related career. Popular jobs include art/advertising director, graphic designer, teacher, production manager and writer. Some students pursue technical training in order to enter the fields of editing,

cinematography, directing or screen writing. In recent years, UWM film studies graduates have joined prestigious graduate programs in film studies, cinema studies, media studies or screen studies at UCLA, Northwestern University, American University, Boston University and the University of Chicago. In addition, some of our students have gone directly to graduate programs in law as well as education.

Major Requirements

Thirty-nine credits are required for the major, at least 15 in upper level courses taken in residence at UWM. The core required courses are:

- ArtHist 205 – History of Film I: Development of an Art
- English 290 – Intro to Film Studies
- English 390 – Classical Film Criticism and Theory
- Film Studies 590 – Seminar in Contemporary Film Theory

The remaining credits are chosen from a large list of approved courses. A sampling of the options includes the following. The full list can be viewed on our web site.

- ArtHist 308 – Film Styles: (Subtitle)
- CompLit 362 – Transnational Asian Cinemas: (Subtitle)
- Art Hist / English 111 – Entertainment Arts: Film, Television and the Internet
- English 291 – Intro to Television Studies
- English 295 – Women and Film
- English 316 – World Cinema: (Subtitle)
- English 320 – Studies in Film Authorship: (Subtitle)
- English 329 – Film and Literature
- English 383 – Cinema and Genre: (Subtitle)
- Film Std 350 – Global Jewish Film and Television: (Subtitle)
- French 451 – French Cinema
- Italian 229 – Italian Cinema

On-Line Courses

The film studies program embraces the use of technology and media to deliver instruction. We continue to work on adding more classes to our on-line rotation. These classes were offered on-line in the 2010-11 academic year:

- Art Hist / English 111 – Entertainment Arts: Film, Television and the Internet
- English 290 – Intro to Film Studies
- English 312 – Topics in Film Studies: (Subtitle)
- English 329 – Film and Literature
- English 383 – Cinema and Genre: (Subtitle)

Film In Milwaukee

Wisconsin has a growing reputation as a destination for filmmaking and has a long history of valuing independent and art house film. Students have numerous opportunities to be active participants in the film community.

Milwaukee is home to the annual Milwaukee Film Festival. In 2010, the festival showed 78 feature films and 95 shorts, selling more than 30,000 tickets. In addition, Milwaukee is one of eight cities with a chapter of the Cinema Club, the nation's premier sneak preview film society. On select Sunday mornings during each academic semester, the Cinema Club previews the best American independent and foreign films of the season. Gilberto Blasini and Patrice Petro, two of the core faculty in the film studies program, serve as moderators and lead a lively discussion after each film.

UWM regularly screens notable domestic and international films and hosts a number of film festivals:

- French Film Festival
- Latin American Film Series
- LGBT Film Festival
- Milwaukee Underground Film Festival
- Nordic Film Festival
- Middle Eastern and North African Film Series
- Student Film and Video Festival
- Taiwanese Film Festival

Milwaukee also is home to numerous production companies where UWM graduates are well-represented in technical and administrative leadership roles.

Internships

Students are encouraged to obtain practical experience while in college. Recent UWM film studies students have completed internships at Milwaukee Film (the organization that presents the annual Milwaukee Film Festival), The Ford Modeling Agency and the Disney Corporation.

Digital Arts and Culture

A complementary line of study is the certificate program in Digital Arts and Culture, which prepares students to creatively produce digital art and media content, critically analyze work produced by others and theoretically understand cultural interactions between digital technologies and society.

Students can complete the certificate as part of their undergraduate work, and it is similar to the film studies minor in its requirements. The

program also is open to individuals who already have a bachelor's degree and are seeking to enhance their credentials in the workplace.

To obtain the certificate, students complete 24 credits with a GPA of 2.75 or above. The core courses include four of the following:

- Art 118 – Digital Arts: Culture, Theory, Practice
- Commun 313 – Human Communication and Technology
- Art Hist / English 111 – Entertainment Arts: Film, Television and the Internet
- English 439 – Document Design
- JMC 101 – Intro to Mass Media
- JMC 113 – Internet Culture
- JMC 336 – Media Graphics
- L&I Sci 110 – Intro to Information Science

The remaining credits are chosen from a list of concept courses and practicum courses in which students will produce digital or other media.

Revised 02/11

Film Studies Program
Curtin Hall 488
phone: 414-229-4689
email: terrapin@uwm.edu