

Film and Media Studies

Director of undergraduate studies: John Durham Peters (john.peters@yale.edu); filmstudies.yale.edu/undergraduate

The major in Film and Media Studies focuses on the history, theory, criticism, and production of cinema and other moving-image media. Courses examine cinema and the broader landscape of audiovisual media as significant modern art forms, and the contributions of moving-image media as cultural and communicative practices of enduring social significance. As an interdisciplinary program centered in the humanities, Film and Media Studies offers students latitude in defining their course of study within the framework established by the Film and Media Studies Committee. With this freedom comes the responsibility of carefully planning a coherent and well-focused program. Because of the special demands of Film and Media Studies and the diversity of its offerings, potential majors are encouraged to consult the director of undergraduate studies (DUS) early in their academic careers.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

See Links to the attributes indicating courses approved for the Film and Media Studies requirements.

The Film and Media Studies major consists of twelve term courses, including the senior requirement. Students are required to take FILM 1501, FILM 1601 and FILM 3201, preferably by the end of their sophomore year. In addition, students are required to take one upper-level course in the study of representative films from a non-American national cinema (e.g. German expressionist cinema, Italian cinema, or world cinema) and one upper-level course in critical studies: these are designated by attributes (YC FILM World Cinema, YC FILM Critical Studies) in Yale Course Search. Students also must take at least one course on the creative process in film, designated by the attribute YC FILM Production in Yale Course Search. Courses taken outside the Film and Media Studies department do not count toward the major without the permission of the DUS. Admission to senior-level seminars is at the instructor's discretion, but the Film and Media Studies program ensures that every senior major gains admission to the required number of seminars.

The intensive major Students of substantial accomplishment and commitment to film and media studies are encouraged to pursue the intensive major. Students in the intensive major complete a senior project in production and also write a senior essay. The intensive major in Film and Media Studies is intended for students who are not pursuing two majors. Students must request approval from the Film and Media Studies Committee at the end of their junior year by submitting a proposal that outlines their objectives and general area of study.

Credit/D/Fail No more than one course taken Credit/D/Fail may be applied toward the requirements of the major with permission of the DUS.

Outside credit Courses taken at another institution or during an approved summer or term-time study abroad program may count toward the major requirements with DUS approval.

SENIOR REQUIREMENT

During the senior year, each student takes one or two senior-level seminars or the equivalent and submits a senior essay or senior project, which should represent a culmination of work in the major and in Yale College. The senior requirement requires both critical writing and writing in images. Those undertaking creative senior projects should be expected to produce a paper of approximately fifteen pages in which the student discusses such questions as the genre to be used in the project, existing precedents for the topic, and his or her strategy in working on the project. Those undertaking to fulfill the senior requirement by writing a senior essay should additionally take a course in which they are expected to do, minimally, a small production assignment.

See the Film and Media Studies website for dates and deadlines for the senior requirement. A second reader assigned by the DUS participates in evaluating the essays and/or projects.

Preparation for a senior project Those students hoping to produce a film script or video as their senior project should make sure that they have taken enough courses in video production and screenwriting to be accepted into an advanced course in screenwriting or production. Senior creative projects in Film and Media Studies must be produced in conjunction with one such upper-level course. Students often start by completing FILM 1610, 1620 by the end of their sophomore year, and continue with FILM 3550, 3560 by the end of their junior year, to prepare for FILM 4550, 4560 or FILM 4830, 4840 in their senior year. Those students interested in screenwriting often begin with FILM 3500. Students interested in filmmaking should also take courses in screenwriting, and vice versa. Some production courses are available in the summer program in Prague.

Senior project Students who wish to complete a senior project as an alternative to an essay must petition the Film and Media Studies Committee for approval of their project at the end of the junior year. Projects might include writing a screenplay in Advanced Screenwriting (FILM 4870, 4880) or producing a video. Students electing such an alternative should note that the project must be undertaken and accomplished over two terms. A limited number of students making films or videos are admitted to either the Advanced Fiction Film Workshop (FILM 4830, 4840) or the Documentary Film Workshop (FILM 4550, 4560), and receive three credits for their projects (two credits for FILM 4830, 4840 or FILM 4550, 4560, and one for FILM 4930 or 4940). Such a choice effectively commits students to one extra course in addition to the twelve courses required for the major, because FILM 4930 or 4940 does not count toward the twelve required courses when taken in conjunction with FILM 4830, 4840 or FILM 4550, 4560. Students may undertake a production project outside the workshops if (1) the Film and Media Studies Committee approves their petition, (2) they have found a primary adviser *qualified* and willing to provide the necessary supervision, and (3) they have identified the equipment necessary to execute the project. Such students may count FILM 4930 and 4940 toward the twelve courses required for the major.

Preparation for a senior essay Students in their senior year may prefer to write a senior essay rather than work on a creative project. To prepare, they should take advantage of the variety of courses in film and media history, criticism and theory

offered by the program, including such topics as American independent cinema, film theory, and African American cinema.

Senior essay For the student writing a senior essay, several options are possible. First, the student may enroll in two terms of relevant senior-level seminars (usually courses numbered in the 4000s) and write a substantial term paper of twenty-five pages, double-spaced, for one of these courses. Second, the student may do independent research on a yearlong senior essay (FILM 4910, 4920). This option is intended for students with clearly defined topics that do not relate closely to a senior-level seminar. Such research receives two terms of credit; the product of a two-term research essay is a work of at least fifty pages. Third, the senior requirement may be completed by combining one single-term senior-level seminar with one term of an independent research project (FILM 4910 or 4920), resulting in a paper of thirty-five pages. Whichever option is chosen, the essay should be written on a topic informed by the student's previous coursework at Yale College. The student intending to write a senior essay should submit a brief prospectus, approved by the proposed faculty adviser, to the DUS by the end of reading week in their junior year. If this petition is approved, the student should plan to submit an updated and elaborated prospectus for final approval by the DUS during the first two weeks of the first term of senior year. In researching and writing the essay, the student should consult regularly with the seminar instructor or adviser, supplying preliminary drafts as appropriate, and may consult with other faculty members as well.

ADVISING

Foreign languages Study of relevant languages is urged for all Film and Media Studies majors. Students considering graduate work should become proficient in French or another modern language. Those choosing to study film in relation to a foreign culture must have good listening and reading abilities in that language.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Number of courses 12 term courses (incl senior req)

Specific courses required FILM 1501, FILM 1601 and FILM 3201

Distribution of courses 1 upper-level national or world cinema course as specified; 1 upper level critical studies course; 1 production course

Senior requirement *For senior essay* – 2 terms of senior-level seminars, or 2 terms of senior essay (FILM 4910, 4920), or 1 term of a senior-level seminar and one term of FILM 4910 or 4920; *for senior project* – 2 terms of senior project in FILM 4550, 4560, or FILM 4830, 4840, and either FILM 4930 or 4940, for a total of 13 term courses; or 2 terms of senior project in FILM 4870, 4880; or 2 terms of senior project in FILM 4930, 4940 *with approved petition*

Intensive major Both senior project in production and senior essay

FACULTY ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAM OF FILM AND MEDIA STUDIES

Professors *Marijeta Bozovic (*Slavic Languages and Literatures, Film & Media Studies, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies*) *Francesco Casetti (*Humanities, Film & Media Studies*), *Marta Figlerowicz (*Comparative Literature, English, Film & Media Studies*)

*Aaron Gerow (*East Asian Languages and Literatures, Film & Media Studies*), Brian Kane

(*Music, Film & Media Studies*), *John MacKay (*Film & Media Studies, Slavic Languages and Literatures*), *Millicent Marcus (*Italian, Film & Media Studies*), *Charles Musser (*American Studies, Film & Media Studies*), *Fatima Naqvi (*German, Film & Media Studies*), *John Durham Peters (*English, Film & Media Studies*), *Katie Trumpener (*Comparative Literature, English, Film & Media Studies*), Laura Wexler (*American Studies, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies*), *R. John Williams (*English, Film & Media Studies*)

Associate Professors Moira Fradinger (*Comparative Literature*), Zareena Grewal (*Ethnicity, Race, & Migration*)

Assistant Professor Neta Alexander (*Film & Media Studies*)

Professor in the Practice Thomas Allen Harris (*African American Studies, Film & Media Studies*)

Senior Lecturer Camille Thomasson (*Film & Media Studies*)

Lecturers Jonathan Andrews (*Art, Film & Media Studies*), Shakti Bhagchandani (*Film & Media Studies*), Oksana Chefranova (*Film & Media Studies*), Claire Demoulin (*Film & Media Studies*), Wanda Strauven (*Film & Media Studies*)

Senior Lector Krystyna Illakowicz (*Slavic Languages and Literatures*)

Visiting Professor Leighton Pierce (*Film & Media Studies*)

*Member of the Film and Media Studies Advisory Committee.