

Film Studies

Film studies is an interdisciplinary field of inquiry devoted to the analysis of the cinematic moving image both as a unique form in its own right and as a medium influenced and shaped by related fields such as literature, the social sciences, and the arts. Film studies at Ohio State provides students with the means to understand and make critical judgments about film, the preeminent art form of the twentieth century, and the image-media experiences that inform their lives. Film studies scholars from many departments across the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences work together to construct an interdisciplinary exploration of the artistic and socio-historical traditions of this medium.

Pursuing Film Studies at Ohio State

All Ohio State freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus. The primary criteria for admission are the completion of the applicant's high school college preparatory program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade point average, and performance on either the ACT or SAT. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in Film Studies within the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences.

Students interested in film studies should consult with an Arts and Sciences advisor and with the program's director as soon as possible. English 263, Introduction to Film, is a prerequisite for the major, and also fulfills part of the General Education Curriculum (GEC) for the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences, and should be taken early by any student potentially attracted to this major.

Film Studies Requirements

The major in Film Studies is comprised of at least 50 credit hours. Students take 10 hours of core courses, 5 credit hours each in the "pre-1950s" and "multicultural" components, and 20 hours of film electives, all of which can be chosen from a list of approved film courses in various disciplines. They must also complete 15 credit hours in a focus area, a set of electives chosen in consultation with an academic advisor from related courses throughout the university focused on a coherent theme or integrated course of study. This is an outstanding opportunity to explore interdisciplinary themes and is especially accommodating

Courses are taught by internationally renowned faculty.

The Major Focus Area gives students the unique opportunity to craft an interdisciplinary concentration within the major.

to students interested in a double major or minor. If the focus area cluster is deemed sufficiently rich in film studies material, students will be allowed to use one course (5 credit hours) in the cluster to meet other requirements in the major.

There is no foreign language requirement beyond that stipulated for the GEC, but all students are encouraged to complete 201 (or its equivalent) in a foreign language, especially those whose focus area concentrates on a non-English speaking national cinema or topic. Some classes and internship opportunities may only be available to those with advanced language skills.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to study abroad programs to student organizations. Co-ops and internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students. Ohio State offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world. In addition, there are hundreds of student organizations on campus to meet the interests of a diverse student population.

These experiences enable students to gain valuable work experience, learn about cultures, and take on leadership roles before they enter the workforce. All of these experiences enhance learning and may provide an advantage in the job market.

For more information, check these web sites:

Film Studies: film-studies.osu.edu

Colleges of the Arts and Sciences: artsandsciences.osu.edu

Arts and Sciences Advising: ascadvising.osu.edu

Ohio State: osu.edu

Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu

First Year Experience Program: fye.osu.edu

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes students may take to pursue a major in Film Studies with a focus area in production values/producing values. Since university students need more than a specific education in a narrow field, they also take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC allows students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in Film Studies, more at film-studies.osu.edu.

Freshman Year

Arts & Sciences Survey	1
First Year English Composition	5
Elementary Functions	5
Elementary Statistics	5
Calculus and Analytical Geometry	5
American Identity in the World	5
Foreign Language	10
Elementary Chemistry	5
Introduction to Film	5
Total Hours	46

Sophomore Year

Foreign Language	10
Physical Geology	5
Introduction to Film Studies	5
Introduction to World Cinema	5
Silent Cinema: 1895-1927	5
American Civilization	10
Principles of Microeconomics	5
Theatre Practicum	2
Literature and Society	5
Total Hours	52

Junior Year

Women and Film	5
Video Production I	5
Asian American Film	5
Documentary Film	5
Principles of Macroeconomics	5
Introduction to Language in Social Sciences	5
Writing Seminar in History of Art	5
Business & Professional Writing	5
Thematic Approaches to Literature	5
Communication in Society	5
Total Hours	50

Senior Year

Video Production II	5
Avant-Garde Film	5
Special Topics in Film	5
Historical Geology	5
Introductory Biology	5
City Planning in Contemporary World	5
Creating Electronic Messages	5
Business Administration	9
Total Hours	44

Honors And Scholars Programs

Honors versions of several Film Studies courses are under development. Qualified students also may seek to complete a Senior Honors Thesis, in which they pursue an area of scholarship under the close supervision of a faculty member. Students majoring in Film Studies may apply to either the Humanities Scholars or Arts Scholars Programs. Ohio State's Scholars programs provide students opportunities to live and learn with students with similar interests and incorporates specialized workshops, programming, mentoring, and advising.

Career Prospects Through Film Studies

Traditionally, graduates with a B.A. in Film Studies pursue higher education in Film Studies or media-arts production, distribution, funding, archiving, research, journalism, arts criticism, and traditional and non-traditional education at a variety of levels including P-12 education. They have been competitive in graduate school acceptance and in job searches nationally in these areas. Students are also prepared for the kinds of positions requiring critical and information-analytical skills in government, nonprofit organizations, and industry that are open to other students majoring in the arts and sciences.

About Ohio State

The Ohio State University is recognized throughout the nation and the world for its innovative programs, exceptional faculty, and cutting edge facilities. In fact, Ohio State is consistently ranked among the country's best public institutions for overall academic reputation. Because Ohio State is a major teaching and research university, our students receive excellent preparation for entry into top graduate/professional programs and the job market.

Offering over 170 majors and more than 12,000 courses, Ohio State allows students to tailor their education to their interests through double majors, minors, and personalized study programs.

Apply to Ohio State

Students wishing to apply for admission have a number of options. Those with Internet access can download application materials or apply online by visiting undergrad.osu.edu. Students may also contact Undergraduate Admissions and First Year Experience at (614) 292-3980 or askabuckeye@osu.edu to have an application mailed.

July 2007. All information is subject to change without notice. For the most up-to-date information on the film studies major, please visit film-studies.osu.edu.

Contact information:

John E. Davidson | Director | Film Studies Program
4108 Smith Laboratory | 174 West 18th Avenue | Columbus, OH 43210
(614) 292-6044 | Fax (614) 688-5678