

FILM STUDIES

MINOR PROGRAM OFFICE

Nichols Hall 214
(707) 664-2486
<https://www.sonoma.edu/filmstudies>

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM OFFICE

Stevenson 1012
(707) 664-3977
<https://www.sonoma.edu/exed/film>

Program Coordinators/Faculty Advisors

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Programs Offered

- Minor in Film Studies
- Master of Arts in Film Studies

Film Studies is an interdisciplinary area of inquiry that analyzes the theory, history, practice, and cultural significance of film. Students will study a broad range of film texts and learn to appreciate a variety of aesthetic and filmmaking practices. Through a critical examination of film, students will also learn to appreciate the moral and aesthetic values of various cultures, ethnicities, races, and nationalities. While exploring film's connection with culture, students will learn to approach film and the cinema in a critical and analytical manner.

Film Studies Learning Objectives

Film Studies students will have well developed skills in:

- Understanding the social, cultural, historical, and political perspectives of film
- Analyzing film and media texts rapidly changing the world
- Interpreting and expressing concise arguments in oral and written communications
- Applying the knowledge of film and history to their chosen areas of interest
- Developing the critical and analytical skills to evaluate emerging new media forms

Careers In Film Studies

Film studies students can apply their skills to a wide variety of professions. Those specifically dealing with television, media, and

film include press agent, content developer, media administration, production editorial assistant, film librarian, screen writing and editing, and social relations.

Minor in Film Studies

The minor consists of a minimum of 18 semester units distributed among a core (7 units) and a choice of electives (11 or more units).

Minor Core Requirements (2 courses, 7 units)

LIBS 320C Introduction to Film Studies	3
Multicultural Representations in Film (Students choose one of the following courses):	
AMCS 392 Ethnic Images in Film and Media	4
CALS 393 Chicano/Latino Cinema	4
LIBS 204 Minorities in American Cinema	4
NAMS 338 Native Americans and the Cinema	4
Total units in the minor core	7

Minor Electives (a minimum of 11 units)

Students may complete the film studies minor by choosing *additional* course work that incorporates film analysis, history, imagery, or cultural representation as a critical component of the course pedagogy. Note that any course taken in the core may *not* be repeated for elective credit. The following is a list of approved electives. However, this list of electives may not be exhaustive, as course offerings may change each semester. Students are advised to work closely with one of the faculty advisors listed above in order to ensure progress in the minor.

Note: Some of these courses are offered in departments that are impacted, and may not be open to all students.

AMCS 392 Ethnic Images in Film and Media*	4
AMCS 390 Independent Film Study**	1-2
CALS 393 Chicano/Latino Cinema*	4
COMS 320 Movies and Cultures	4
COMS 320 Screenwriting for Film	4
COMS 329 "Reality" TV and Film	4
ENGL 377 Topics in Film Studies	1-4
ENGL 430 Creative Writing: Select Genres (Screenwriting)	1-4
MLL 214 French Literature and Film	4
FR 201 Third Semester French	4
GER 210 Intermediate German though Film	4
LIBS 204 Minorities in American Cinema*	4
LIBS 209 Bollywood and Globalization	4
LIBS 320C Documentary Ethics and Aesthetic	3
LIBS 320C Bollywood	3
LIBS 390 Independent Film Study**	1-2
NAMS 338 Native Americans and the Cinema*	4
POLS 431 Politics and the Media	4

PSY 413 Adolescent Development Through Film	4
PSY 470 Psychology of Film	4
SOCI 434 Cinema and Society	4
WGS 285 Men and Masculinities	4
Total units in the minor electives	11
Total units in the minor	18.

* Note: This class may count as an elective if it has not been used to satisfy the core requirements.

**Note: Students may not enroll in both AMCS 390 and LIBS 390 during the same semester.

Master of Arts in Film Studies

The Master of Arts in Film Studies program is a unique interdisciplinary degree designed to develop students' knowledge of film as an aesthetic medium and as an agent of social change. The program is dedicated to enhancing student understanding of film as a mode of communication and as a distinct art form as well as developing skills in using film and digital media as tools for advocacy.

This interdisciplinary program is a partnership between the School of Arts and Humanities, and the School of Extended and International Education (SEIE.) As a self supported program, unique separate fees are charged on a per-unit basis for all courses required for this program. These fees are set annually by the SSU President. Information about fees, admission requirements, and students support services are available through SEIE. Academic criteria for the program are determined in accordance with all applicable SSU and CSU policies. Degrees are awarded by the School of Arts and Humanities.

Additional Master's Learning Objectives and Career Skills

Students completing the MA in Film Studies will have skills in

- Integrating knowledge from multiple interrelated fields to develop interdisciplinary projects
- Collaborating with filmmakers on larger projects including documentary features
- Formulating new areas of media research and designing independent media projects

They will be

- Engaged media professionals committed to enacting and documenting social change
- Prepared to be independent film and media scholars and practitioners
- Educated to be leaders in their professions

Requirements for Admission

1. A Bachelors degree from an accredited college or University;
2. A minimum of 3.00 GPA for the last 60 Units of academic

work. Students with a lower GPA may be considered on a space-available basis;

3. Two letters of recommendation, completion of program application;
4. A brief narrative describing past and present experience with film and film studies, including any film-related coursework or creative projects completed.

For more information, please refer to Graduate Degrees in the Degree Requirements section of this catalog.

Requirements for the M.A.

1. Advancement to candidacy form (GS01) fully signed and submitted to the Graduate Studies office;
2. Grade point average of 3.00 or better for all work attempted in graduate status and in all work approved as a part of the specific pattern of study. With the approval of the faculty coordinator, a maximum of 9 units of upper-division or graduate-level academic coursework at an accredited institution may be included as a part of the student's specific pattern of study. All courses are to be taken for a letter grade;
3. Passage of the Written English Proficiency Test (WEPT) or equivalent demonstration of writing competency;
4. Completion of requirements form (GS02) must be fully signed and submitted to the Graduate Studies Office;
5. All requirements for the M.A. degree in Film Studies, including written proficiency, and conditional requirements stipulated at the time of admission and candidacy, must be satisfactorily completed within seven years from the time the student completes the first course in the program; and
6. With the approval of the Faculty Advisor, the satisfactory completion of one of the following two options:

Master's Thesis Option

Graduate Courses (500 level)

Film 500 Introduction to Film and Media theory	4
Film 501 Film and Narrative	4
Film 502 Documentary Film and Social Advocacy	4
Film 503 Film and Cultural Studies (various topics)	12
Film 599 Thesis and Directed Reading	6

Total units required for MA 30

Note: up to 10 units of appropriate 300-400 level coursework may be substituted for FILM 503 classes upon approval of the faculty advisor.

Creative Project Option

Graduate Courses (500 level)

Film 500 Introduction to Film and Media Theory	4
Film 501 Film and Narrative	4

Film 502 Documentary Film and Social Advocacy	4
Film 503 Film and Cultural Studies	4
Film 510 Digital Storytelling I	4
Film 515 Digital Storytelling II	4
Film 535 Directed Film or Creative Project	6
Total Units required for the MA	30