Cinematic Arts

Chair
• Michael J. Cowan

Undergraduate majors: cinema (B.A.); screenwriting arts (B.A.)
Undergraduate minor: cinema
Graduate degrees: M.A. in film studies; M.F.A. in film and video production; Ph.D. in film studies
Faculty: https://cinematicarts.uiowa.edu/people
Website: https://cinematicarts.uiowa.edu/

The Department of Cinematic Arts provides students with opportunities to explore and gain insight into cinema as a subject of international and interdisciplinary study as well as creative practice. The curriculum emphasizes film and related media in their historical and cultural contexts as well as film and video production in a variety of modes.

The screenwriting arts major instructs students in the practical skills and knowledge needed to become successful members of the screenwriting industry, in addition to the history and theories related to screenwriting.

The department’s faculty offer expertise in film and video production; film history and theory, with emphasis on international film cultures; and the history, theory, and production of documentary media. Students conduct projects using state-of-the-art equipment and software that is updated regularly.

The department offers two majors awarded with a B.A. degree, an undergraduate minor, and three graduate degree programs (M.A., M.F.A., and Ph.D.). It also offers courses for all interested students under the Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts area of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core.

Resources

The Department of Cinematic Arts maintains up-to-date film and video equipment and facilities that allow students to acquire professional skills in a range of technical and creative areas, including cinematography, editing, sound design, screenwriting, and animation. The program also draws upon the extensive media holdings, and scholarly and archival resources relevant to the study of cinema held by the University of Iowa Libraries. The department regularly sponsors events, including film screenings, festivals, symposia, and presentations by notable visiting scholars and artists, that extend the study of film beyond the classroom and regular curriculum. Collaborations with Iowa City’s independent cinema, FilmScene, and the Bijou, the University of Iowa’s long-running student film society, also enhance local opportunities for students to view films outside of the classroom and mainstream venues.

Programs

Undergraduate Programs of Study

Majors
• Major in Cinema (Bachelor of Arts)
• Major in Screenwriting Arts (Bachelor of Arts)

Minor
• Minor in Cinema

Graduate Programs of Study

Majors
• Master of Arts in Film Studies
• Master of Fine Arts in Film and Video Production
• Doctor of Philosophy in Film Studies

Courses

Cinematic Arts Courses

CINE:1000 First-Year Seminar 1 s.h.
Small discussion class taught by a faculty member; topics chosen by instructor; may include outside activities (e.g., films, lectures, performances, readings, visits to research facilities, field trips). Requirements: first- or second-semester standing.

CINE:1100 The Art of Smartphone Filmmaking 3 s.h.
Introduction to filmmaking principles; how to shoot and edit short videos utilizing smartphone technology; methods to produce high-quality work without professional equipment. GE: Engineering Be Creative; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts.

CINE:1150 Introduction to Screenwriting for Nonmajors 3 s.h.
Introduction to basic storytelling strategies and principles, writing film treatments, adapting prose to professional screenplay format, story structure for features and short films, workshop original screenplays, critique student work, and analyze professional screenplays. GE: Engineering Be Creative.

CINE:1185 Internship 1-3 s.h.
Opportunity to apply skills; faculty supervision, on or off campus. Requirements: cinema major.

CINE:1195 Video Games and Identity 3 s.h.
Structural and historical problems of representation and inclusion in video games (as text, industry, and culture) along lines of race, gender, sexuality, age, class, and ability; introduction to game studies as a discipline; guidance in learning college-level reading and writing. GE: Diversity and Inclusion.

CINE:1300 Foundations of Screenwriting 3 s.h.
Idea and creative research, foundational elements of stories, creation and development of characters and story lines, dialogue writing, screenplay format, analysis of storytelling in professional screenplays, writing and workshop student’s work.

CINE:1560 Cinematic Arts Ambassador Seminar 1 s.h.
Ambassadors provide information about the Department of Cinematic Arts to incoming and visiting students, University community, and broader community; conduct tours; meet with students and parents; review curriculum; provide information on opportunities; coordinate events; and update materials for prospective and incoming students. Requirements: cinema major.

CINE:1601 Introduction to Film Analysis 3 s.h.
Formal analysis of film; narrative cinema and approaches to narrative structure; authorship and genre issues, other major topics.

Minor Programs

• Minor in Cinema

Graduate Programs of Study

Majors
• Master of Arts in Film Studies
• Master of Fine Arts in Film and Video Production
• Doctor of Philosophy in Film Studies

Courses

Cinematic Arts Courses

CINE:1000 First-Year Seminar 1 s.h.
Small discussion class taught by a faculty member; topics chosen by instructor; may include outside activities (e.g., films, lectures, performances, readings, visits to research facilities, field trips). Requirements: first- or second-semester standing.

CINE:1100 The Art of Smartphone Filmmaking 3 s.h.
Introduction to filmmaking principles; how to shoot and edit short videos utilizing smartphone technology; methods to produce high-quality work without professional equipment. GE: Engineering Be Creative; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts.

CINE:1150 Introduction to Screenwriting for Nonmajors 3 s.h.
Introduction to basic storytelling strategies and principles, writing film treatments, adapting prose to professional screenplay format, story structure for features and short films, workshop original screenplays, critique student work, and analyze professional screenplays. GE: Engineering Be Creative.

CINE:1185 Internship 1-3 s.h.
Opportunity to apply skills; faculty supervision, on or off campus. Requirements: cinema major.

CINE:1195 Video Games and Identity 3 s.h.
Structural and historical problems of representation and inclusion in video games (as text, industry, and culture) along lines of race, gender, sexuality, age, class, and ability; introduction to game studies as a discipline; guidance in learning college-level reading and writing. GE: Diversity and Inclusion.

CINE:1300 Foundations of Screenwriting 3 s.h.
Idea and creative research, foundational elements of stories, creation and development of characters and story lines, dialogue writing, screenplay format, analysis of storytelling in professional screenplays, writing and workshop student’s work.

CINE:1560 Cinematic Arts Ambassador Seminar 1 s.h.
Ambassadors provide information about the Department of Cinematic Arts to incoming and visiting students, University community, and broader community; conduct tours; meet with students and parents; review curriculum; provide information on opportunities; coordinate events; and update materials for prospective and incoming students. Requirements: cinema major.

CINE:1601 Introduction to Film Analysis 3 s.h.
Formal analysis of film; narrative cinema and approaches to narrative structure; authorship and genre issues, other major topics.

Minor Programs

• Minor in Cinema

Graduate Programs of Study

Majors
• Master of Arts in Film Studies
• Master of Fine Arts in Film and Video Production
• Doctor of Philosophy in Film Studies

Courses

Cinematic Arts Courses

CINE:1000 First-Year Seminar 1 s.h.
Small discussion class taught by a faculty member; topics chosen by instructor; may include outside activities (e.g., films, lectures, performances, readings, visits to research facilities, field trips). Requirements: first- or second-semester standing.

CINE:1100 The Art of Smartphone Filmmaking 3 s.h.
Introduction to filmmaking principles; how to shoot and edit short videos utilizing smartphone technology; methods to produce high-quality work without professional equipment. GE: Engineering Be Creative; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts.

CINE:1150 Introduction to Screenwriting for Nonmajors 3 s.h.
Introduction to basic storytelling strategies and principles, writing film treatments, adapting prose to professional screenplay format, story structure for features and short films, workshop original screenplays, critique student work, and analyze professional screenplays. GE: Engineering Be Creative.

CINE:1185 Internship 1-3 s.h.
Opportunity to apply skills; faculty supervision, on or off campus. Requirements: cinema major.

CINE:1195 Video Games and Identity 3 s.h.
Structural and historical problems of representation and inclusion in video games (as text, industry, and culture) along lines of race, gender, sexuality, age, class, and ability; introduction to game studies as a discipline; guidance in learning college-level reading and writing. GE: Diversity and Inclusion.

CINE:1300 Foundations of Screenwriting 3 s.h.
Idea and creative research, foundational elements of stories, creation and development of characters and story lines, dialogue writing, screenplay format, analysis of storytelling in professional screenplays, writing and workshop student’s work.

CINE:1560 Cinematic Arts Ambassador Seminar 1 s.h.
Ambassadors provide information about the Department of Cinematic Arts to incoming and visiting students, University community, and broader community; conduct tours; meet with students and parents; review curriculum; provide information on opportunities; coordinate events; and update materials for prospective and incoming students. Requirements: cinema major.

CINE:1601 Introduction to Film Analysis 3 s.h.
Formal analysis of film; narrative cinema and approaches to narrative structure; authorship and genre issues, other major topics.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CINE:1602</td>
<td>Introduction to Film Studies</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:1610</td>
<td>Contemporary Cinema</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:1625</td>
<td>Race, Gender, and Sexuality on Screen</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:1834</td>
<td>Modes of Film and Video Production</td>
<td>4 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:2195</td>
<td>Individual Study</td>
<td>arr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:2600</td>
<td>Writing Film Reviews and Criticism</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:2615</td>
<td>Introduction to Film Theory</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:2620</td>
<td>U.S. Film</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:2623</td>
<td>Introduction to Documentary Film</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:2627</td>
<td>Film Club</td>
<td>1 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:2800</td>
<td>Digital Arts: An Introduction</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:2863</td>
<td>Film/Video Production: Film Festival</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:2864</td>
<td>Film/Video Production: Alternative Forms</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:2866</td>
<td>Film/Video Production: Nonfiction</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:2868</td>
<td>Film/Video Production: Fiction</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:2869</td>
<td>Introduction to Intermedia</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:3050</td>
<td>Practicum: Teaching Assistant</td>
<td>1 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:3080</td>
<td>Film/Video Production: The Business of Filmmaking</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:3195</td>
<td>Undergraduate Seminar</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:3310</td>
<td>Screenwriting Studies</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:3315</td>
<td>Topics in Screenwriting</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:3361</td>
<td>Screenwriting: Short Form</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CINE:3367 Screenwriting: Long Form 3 s.h.
Introduction to basic principles of screenwriting; develop, write, and workshop screenplays for longer form film/video projects including fiction, nonfiction, and experimental work. Prerequisites: CINE:1300 with a minimum grade of C and CINE:1601 with a minimum grade of C and CINE:1834 with a minimum grade of C.

CINE:3750 Topics in Cinema and Culture 3 s.h.
One or more national cinemas in relation to social, historical, and cultural contexts. Prerequisites: CINE:1601 with a minimum grade of C.

CINE:3865 Film/Video Production: Material of 16mm Filmmaking 3 s.h.
Individual work to create projects using 16mm filmmaking techniques including camera operation, editing, lighting for film, found footage, and camera-less filmmaking; introduction to hand processing; production course. Prerequisites: CINE:1834 with a minimum grade of C.

CINE:3876 Video for Performance 3 s.h.
Introduction to aesthetics and practical applications of digital media and video design for live performance including content creation, system design, and content optimization for media servers; students create digital video and animations and integrate them into live performance and entertainment events via projections, media servers, and digital displays using QLab Media Server and Adobe Creative Cloud (e.g., Illustrator, Photoshop, Premiere Pro, Audition, After Effects); for those with an interest in designing, creating, and displaying digital media for theatre, dance, concerts, corporate events, gallery installations, VJ sets, and architectural projections. Prerequisites: THTR:2890 or THTR:5890 or CINE:1834, GE: Engineering Be Creative. Same as DANC:3876, DIGA:3876, INTM:3876, THTR:3876.

CINE:3878 Film and Media Practicum 1 s.h.
Research and production-oriented film and media practicum; individual and small-group work on a single film, video, or media production as determined by instructor; independent library and web-based research, group presentations, readings. Requirements: junior or senior standing.

CINE:4198 Honors Project I 3 s.h.
Requirements: standards met for honors in the major for the B.A. in cinema.

CINE:4199 Honors Project II 3 s.h.
Completion of honors project, working with a designated cinematic arts faculty member; content varies depending on specific projects proposed by the student, approved by the faculty member, in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies and any additional cinematic arts faculty members relevant to the project. Prerequisites: CINE:4198. Requirements: standards met for honors in the major for the B.A. in cinema.

CINE:4377 Advanced Screenwriting I 4 s.h.
Developing, writing, and workshopping screenplays for short film/video projects including fiction, nonfiction, and experimental work; introduction to preproduction activities; exercises and journal assignments. Prerequisites: CINE:3361 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:3367 with a minimum grade of C.

CINE:4378 Advanced Screenwriting II 4 s.h.
Students write a feature screenplay (105-115 pages) within the industry standard contract guidelines for independent and studio projects; completion of outline, beat sheet, treatment, and first draft; one rewrite. Prerequisites: CINE:4377 with a minimum grade of C.

CINE:4610 Studies in Film and Music 3 s.h.
Critical approaches to historical and contemporary interrelationships between film and music; soundtracks and film scores; popular song and cinema. Prerequisites: CINE:1601 with a minimum grade of C. Same as MUS:4610.

CINE:4618 Topics in World Cinemas 3 s.h.
Issues in international film history and film theory. Prerequisites: CINE:1601 with a minimum grade of C.

CINE:4620 Topics in Film Form, Style, and Theory 3 s.h.
Special issues and topics relevant to film form, style, and/or theory. Prerequisites: CINE:1601 with a minimum grade of C.

CINE:4705 Chicano Cinema 3 s.h.
History of Chicano independent and industry film and television production since the Chicano political and cultural movement began in the 1960s. Taught in English. Requirements: one Spanish literature or culture course numbered SPAN:3200 or above, or one film studies course numbered above CINE:2100. Same as LAT:5:4805, SPAN:4805.

CINE:4821 Film/Video Production: Selected Topics 4 s.h.
Exploration of a particular genre, issue, or process; varied topics; individual work on several video projects. Prerequisites: CINE:2864 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:2866 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:2868 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:3865 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:4841 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:4843 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:4845 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:4862 with a minimum grade of C.

CINE:4825 Digital Production: Animation 4 s.h.
Intermediate 3D modeling, motion graphics; student projects culminating in CDR or video presentation. Prerequisites: CINE:1834 with a minimum grade of C.

CINE:4841 Film/Video Production: Sound Design 4 s.h.
Exploration of sound design for film and video, from recording to editing and mixing; individual work on several audio and video projects. Prerequisites: CINE:2864 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:2866 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:2868 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:3865 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:4841 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:4843 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:4862 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:4846 with a minimum grade of C.

CINE:4843 Film/Video Production: Image Design 4 s.h.
Lighting strategies and techniques, camera work, composition, and postproduction; individual work on several video projects. Prerequisites: CINE:2863 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:2864 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:2866 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:2868 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:3865 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:3876 with a minimum grade of C.

CINE:4845 Film/Video Production: Editing 4 s.h.
Development of editing techniques and strategies; editing for impact, mood, story; individual work on several video projects. Prerequisites: CINE:2864 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:2866 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:2868 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:3865 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:3876 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:4841 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:4843 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:4862 with a minimum grade of C.
CINE:4862 Film/Video Production: Advanced Video 4 s.h.
Expanded narrative or nonfiction/documentary topics; individual work on several video projects. Prerequisites: CINE:2864 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:2866 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:2868 with a minimum grade of C or THTR:3876 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:4821 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:4841 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:4843 with a minimum grade of C or CINE:4845 with a minimum grade of C.

CINE:4864 Film Production: Advanced 16mm 4 s.h.
Processes and approaches to short 16mm film; advanced cameras; sync-sound techniques; optical printing; individual work on a single project or several short projects. Prerequisites: CINE:3865 with a minimum grade of C. Requirements: for graduate students—CINE:3865 or recently shot film. Recommendations: for graduate students—CINE:3865 strongly encouraged.

CINE:4890 Media Production Workshop 4 s.h.
Development, production, and realization of a self-directed project; methods and projects may include film, video, screenwriting, or hybrid forms. Prerequisites: THTR:3876 with a minimum grade of B- or CINE:4821 with a minimum grade of B- or CINE:4841 with a minimum grade of B- or CINE:4843 with a minimum grade of B- or CINE:4862 with a minimum grade of B- or CINE:4864 with a minimum grade of B-.

CINE:5500 Success in Graduate Studies 1-3 s.h.
Introduction to graduate studies in film and media-related areas to maximize student success through a series of workshops devoted to research and writing, professionalization, and information sessions with key graduate-related offices and resources on campus.

CINE:5673 Advanced Film Theory 3 s.h.
A major figure, issue, or approach in film theory.

CINE:5675 Advanced Film History 3 s.h.
A major period or topic in film history; issues in film historiography, research.

CINE:5890 Colloquium in Film and Video Production 4 s.h.
Projects and critical studies; focus on varied topics including process and theoretical issues; workshop, readings, production. Recommendations: previous experience with video production; prior cinema courses or filmmaking experience helpful, but not required.

CINE:5900 M.A. Thesis in Film Studies 3 s.h.
Students research and write their M.A. thesis essay under close supervision of an advisor; for M.A. in film studies students in third and fourth semesters.

CINE:6992 Individual Study arr.

CINE:7615 Film Studies Seminar 3 s.h.
A major figure, issue, or approach in film theory.

CINE:7700 Ph.D. Comprehensive Exam Preparation 3 s.h.
Students plan and study for their fourth semester comprehensive exams under close supervision of an advisor; for Ph.D. in film studies students in their third semester.

CINE:7992 Thesis arr.