Film Studies, M.A.

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- build requisite skills for Ph.D.-level study, including academic research and writing, public presentations, publishing, and grant applications;
- identify and apply concepts of film and media theory in scholarship as well as pedagogical practice;
- identify and apply methods of film historiography, including evaluating and working with archival materials;
- develop a broad understanding of the discipline’s history, current status, and potential futures;
- acquire knowledge of cinema’s historical periods, global variations, and diverse forms; and
- acquire a diverse set of professionalization skills in order to explore film and media-related career possibilities within and beyond academia.

Requirements

The Master of Arts program in film studies requires a minimum of 36 s.h. of graduate credit, of which 24 s.h. must be earned at the University of Iowa. Students must earn a minimum program g.p.a. of 3.25.

The 36 s.h. are typically acquired by taking 12 graduate-level courses that span two years. The program’s focus is on advanced film theory and film history in an international context, with required distributions of coursework in U.S. cinema, world cinemas, and at least one of the following areas: film production, documentary film, animation, or experimental film.

Students meet formal degree requirements through coursework, a written M.A. thesis essay produced in the second year, and followed by an oral examination.

The M.A. with a major in film studies requires the following.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CINE:5500</td>
<td>Success in Graduate Studies (consult advisor about semester hour enrollment)</td>
<td>1-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CINE:5673</td>
<td>Advanced Film Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:5675</td>
<td>Advanced Film History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINE:5900</td>
<td>M.A. Thesis in Film Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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Distribution Requirements

Students earn 3 s.h. in each of the following three areas:

- U.S. cinema 3
- World cinemas 3
- Production, documentary, animation, or experimental film 3

Language Study

Up to 6 s.h. in languages and literatures courses numbered 3000 or above in an area other than English may be counted toward the degree

Students are expected to enroll in the two graduate courses offered by the Department of Cinematic Arts each semester. Remaining elective hours may be taken in courses selected from other departments; students should consult their advisor.

More information on the program is available on the Department of Cinematic Arts website.

Admission

A faculty committee chaired by the head of film studies evaluates applications to the M.A. program. Application materials should include undergraduate and/or graduate transcripts, a personal statement, a writing sample, three letters of recommendation, test scores, and samples of creative work when relevant. Admission decisions are based on the full range of an applicant’s accomplishments and evidence that the applicant will fit the elements of the program and will thrive in the department.

Previous experience in the area of film studies is desirable but not required. Applicants usually enter the M.A. program with a B.A. in film studies or an M.A. in an unrelated field.

All applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website. Information about the application process is available on the Department of Cinematic Arts website and the Graduate Admissions website.

Career Advancement

The Master of Arts degree typically prepares students for continued, advanced graduate work in film studies at the University of Iowa or elsewhere. However, students also have used their M.A. training in film theory and history to seek careers in other areas, including film criticism or positions at film archives or film festivals, or within various facets of the film industry.

The Graduate College is prepared to help graduates explore careers related to or that build upon their training. In conjunction with the Graduate College, the Department of Cinematic Arts also is committed to helping graduate students explore a range of alternative careers that take advantage of their specific training. In addition, the Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.