

BA in Film Studies

Degree Program Description

The BA in Film Studies within the School of Visual Studies offers students a comprehensive exploration of film history, theory, and criticism. Through engaging discussions and critical writing, students analyze historical themes, the works of major directors, and how film influences culture. The program emphasizes the development of clear, thoughtful writing and critical thinking skills, preparing graduates for a wide range of careers. Mizzou's Film Studies curriculum features courses led by film scholars from the School of Visual Studies, as well as classes taught by faculty in English, Art History, French, German, Italian, Chinese, and other disciplines. This interdisciplinary approach helps students understand the connections between cinema and culture and the ongoing impact of film in today's world.

Major Program Requirements

Film Studies majors must complete 30 credits in film studies, with a grade of C- or above in every course. A minor is recommended. At least 15 hours in the major must be in courses at the 3000 level or above. In addition to University (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/universityrequirements/>), general education (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/generaleducationrequirements/>), and College of Arts and Science (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofartsandscience/#undergraduatetext>) requirements, students must also meet the following major program requirements. All major requirements in the College of Arts and Science must be completed with grades of C- or higher unless otherwise indicated. No more than 40 credits in Film Studies may be counted toward graduation.

The 30 hours of Film Studies courses for the major must meet the following requirements:

Major core requirements

| UNIT I: | | |
|--|--|----|
| FILMS_VS 1800 | Introduction to Film Studies | 3 |
| UNIT II: | | |
| FILMS_VS 2820 & FILMS_VS 2830 or FILMS_VS 2840 | Trends in World Cinema and American Film History I, 1895-1950 and American Film History II, 1950-Present | 6 |
| UNIT III: | | |
| Electives | | 18 |
| At least six of the elective hours must come from one of the following national cinema courses: | | |
| FILMS_VS 2850 | Italian Cinema | |
| FILMS_VS 2865 | The Art of Soviet and Russian Cinema | |
| FILMS_VS 3490 | Indian Cinema | |
| FILMS_VS 3830 | History of German Film | |
| FILMS_VS 3845 | Modern Israeli Film | |
| FILMS_VS 3875 | Brazilian Cinema | |
| FILMS_VS 3880 | Contemporary Chinese Film | |
| FILMS_VS 3885 | Twenty-First Century South American Cinema | |
| FILMS_VS 4963 | Latin American Cinema (in Spanish) | |
| At least six of the elective hours must come from one of the following courses on theory and method: | | |

| FILMS_VS 2010 | The Philosophy of Film |
|--|---|
| FILMS_VS 2860 | Film Themes and Genres |
| FILMS_VS 3775 | The Ancient World on Film |
| FILMS_VS 3780 | Architecture in Film |
| FILMS_VS 3785 | Art and Artists on Film |
| FILMS_VS 3820 | Major Directors |
| FILMS_VS 3850 | Studies in Film History |
| FILMS_VS 3855 | Documentary Film |
| FILMS_VS 3861 | Film Themes and Genres |
| FILMS_VS 3865 | The Holocaust on Screen |
| FILMS_VS 4370 | Film Studies: The Intersection of Documentary Film and Journalism |
| FILMS_VS 4810 | Film Theory |
| FILMS_VS 4840 | Culture and Media |
| FILMS_VS 4860 | Film Themes and Genres |
| FILMS_VS 4935 | Adaptation of Literature for Film |
| UNIT IV: | |
| Select one of the following: | 3 |
| FILMS_VS 4880 | Capstone Experience |
| One 4000-level FILMS_VS course of at least 3 credits | |
| Total Credits | 30 |

Semester Plan

Below is a sample plan of study, semester by semester. A student's actual plan may vary based on course choices where options are available

| First Year | | | |
|--|----|---|-----------|
| Fall | CR | Spring | CR |
| FILMS_VS 1800 | | 3 FILMS_VS 2830 | 3 |
| ENGLSH 1000 | | 3 Second language Requirement | 4 |
| Missouri State Law Requirement: Social Science from Arts and Science | | 3 Math and Quantitative Reasoning | 3 |
| Second language Requirement | | 4 Biological, physical or mathematical science | 3 |
| First-year orientation course | | 2 Humanities | 3 |
| | | | 15 |
| | | | 16 |
| Second Year | | | |
| Fall | CR | Spring | CR |
| FILMS_VS 2820 | | 3 FILMS_VS – National Cinema course | 3 |
| Second language Requirement | | 4 Humanities, First Writing Intensive | 3 |
| Social Science, 2000+ | | 3 Biological, Physical, or Mathematical Science | 3 |
| Biological or physical science lab | | 3 Behavioral Science | 3 |
| Second major, minor, certificate, or elective | | 3 Second major, minor, certificate, or elective | 3 |
| | | | 16 |
| | | | 15 |
| Third Year | | | |
| Fall | CR | Spring | CR |
| FILMS_VS – Theory and Methods course | | 3 FILMS_VS – Elective (3000+) | 3 |
| FILMS_VS – National Cinema course (3000+) | | 3 Social Science, 2000+ | 3 |
| Behavioral Science | | 3 Humanities, 2000+ | 3 |

| | | |
|---|--|-----------|
| Humanities, 2000+ | 3 Second major, minor, certificate, or elective, 3000+ | 3 |
| Second major, minor, certificate, or elective | 3 Second major, minor, certificate, or elective | 3 |
| 15 | | 15 |

| Fourth Year | | | |
|--|-----------|--|-----------|
| Fall | CR | Spring | CR |
| FILMS_VS – Theory and Methods course (3000+) | | 3 Film 4000-level Capstone | 3 |
| FILMS_VS – Elective (3000+) | | 3 Second major, minor, certificate, or elective | 7 |
| Writing intensive course 3000+ (Film_VS 3820W or DST_VS 3880W recommended) | | 3 Second major, minor, certificate, or elective, 3000+ | 3 |
| Second major, minor, certificate, or elective | | 6 | |
| 15 | | 13 | |

Total Credits: 120