Minor in Film Studies

Program Mission Statement

The film minor welcomes students of any major. The study of film spans virtually every discipline in the University because it is at once an art, a technology, a business, a cultural object, a story-telling medium, a historical document, and a collaborative process. Learning to interpret image, sound, and motion can enhance programs of study in English, philosophy, art and design, music, and communications. Recognizing the impact of historical context on film and its role as a cultural object can benefit numerous majors from history to world languages to anthropology. Business and advertising majors can learn how the most far-reaching art form of the modern era has crafted indelible images to powerfully affect viewers. Engineering and ITS students can learn how technology gave birth to the film industry, transforming to this day our visual world and the world of communications. Regardless of their major, all film minor students will learn the history of cinema and the formal properties of film. They will also learn how to write analytically using this knowledge. Some minors can choose to learn more about film theory, Hollywood, or international cinema, while others can try their hand at documentary filmmaking or screenwriting. The film minor seeks to ignite a passion for film whether students wish to go on to film school, write about film, make film, or simply watch film with a sharper emotional intelligence.

Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

Content/Discipline-Specific Knowledge/Skills
• demonstrate mastery of terms and concepts basic to film study

Communication Skills
• translate their knowledge in the form of well-organized and clear writing that is organized around a central idea

Critical Thinking Skills
• critically analyze an individual film scene

Assessment Approaches

Department faculty teaching film-designated courses directly assess the learning students demonstrate using trait-specific rubrics, objective testing, and holistic grading.