

Film Studies FAQ

Why major in Film Studies at Willamette?

Major in Film Studies because you love movies and want to pursue that passion seriously! Whether your interest is in avant-garde / experimental video, scholarly study of narrative feature films, or the politics and rhetoric of world cinema, majoring in film studies can help you develop your visual, analytical, research, and writing skills, as well as your creative and technical abilities.

Film Studies majors learn to see film as an artistic medium, a cultural expression, a rhetorical device, a technical production, and a commercial enterprise. The major in Film Studies prepares students to participate in a world increasingly shaped by moving pictures. Through courses that offer a foundation for understanding cinema—and its relation to culture, history, technology, and aesthetics—Film Studies teaches students to create and analyze moving images, to produce research, and to make art.

Film Studies at Willamette connects you with multiple critical and methodological approaches to cinema study, and encourages theoretical inquiry as well as creative engagement with the practical problems of audiovisual representation. The interdisciplinary breadth of course offerings—and the variety of national cinemas the program includes—highlights the pervasiveness and importance of audiovisual representations, and equips you to interrogate and respond to those representations.

What is the structure of the Film Studies program?

Film Studies majors take FILM 110: Introduction to Cinema Studies, as well as at least two courses related to film production (possibilities include photography, video art, digital music, screenwriting), at least two related to cinema and society (such as courses on visual anthropology, on the audiovisual legacies of internment in the US, or on gender and mass media in Asia), at least two focused on theoretical questions, and at least one focused on national or transnational cinema (possibilities include study of German, French, African, Spanish, Latin American, Japanese, Russian and Soviet cinemas), as well as two additional electives, for a total of 10 courses, including a senior project generally completed through independent study (FILM 499). Film Studies minors take FILM 110 and four other courses chosen from a list of possible courses.

Because the current structure of the major is complex, and because there are often courses that may count toward the program on a one-time basis, we encourage you to talk with film studies faculty about your plans and program.

How do I pick an advisor for my Film Studies major?

Faculty involved with Film Studies will be happy to talk with you about your questions, interests, and plans, whether or not they are your official advisor.

Once you declare your major in film studies, you will have a primary advisor, whose goal is to meet with you one-on-one at least twice per year to help guide you through the major, so that you can meet

the major's requirements, fulfill your other university requirements, graduate on time, and have the best course schedule possible for your particular interests. Not every professor who teaches Film classes is available to serve as an advisor; when choosing your advisor, select someone who is listed on the Film Studies faculty page and has the job title of Professor, Associate Professor, or Assistant Professor. You might ask a faculty member you know (from taking a class, for instance), or you might get to know someone new. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Can I make movies at Willamette? What equipment is available on campus for making movies?

Several courses in the Film Studies program will involve you in the process of filmmaking. Studio spaces in the Departments of Music and Studio Art have equipment for students currently enrolled in those courses, and WITS has equipment that you can check out for use in projects related to any course:

- VHS Camcorder
- Tripod
- Camera, digital video
- Microphones, hand held and wireless

In addition, the Multimedia workroom (Smullin 38) offers Mac and PC computers with a variety of hardware and software:

- Digital video capture tools
- Digital Audio Workstation with keyboard controller
- Adobe Creative Suite 5 Design Premium
- iMovie (Apple digital video production tool)
- Final Cut Pro Express (Apple digital video production tool)
- Final Cut Pro (Apple digital video production tool)
- Movie Maker (PC digital video production tool)
- Adobe Premiere Pro CC (digital video production tool)
- QuickTime Pro (digital video production tool)
- Logic Pro (digital audio creation)
- Bias Peak (audio mixing, editing, mastering)
- Autodesk Maya (3D animation)

Are there internship possibilities in Film?

Yes; the Governor's Office of Film and Television maintains a list of organizations offering internship possibilities: http://oregonfilm.org/careers/docs/film_media_internships.pdf

You can arrange to get credit for internships through the Career Services Office :
<http://willamette.edu/offices/careers/students/jobs/internships.html>

What do Film Studies majors do after graduating?

Film Studies majors have gone on to a variety of careers, including jobs with small independent film production companies, work in television and video production, and running an independent movie theatre. They've also pursued graduate study at top institutions, focusing on film study, film production, and film archiving and preservation.