Twin Cities Campus

Studies in Cinema and Media Culture B.A.

Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature

College of Liberal Arts

- Program Type: Baccalaureate
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2018
- Required credits to graduate with this degree: 120
- Required credits within the major: 33 to 40
- Degree: Bachelor of Arts

Studies in cinema and media culture (SCMC) examines cinema by emphasizing its location within the intricate social, historical, and cultural matrix of audiovisual forms and practices. Core courses and electives are offered not only in the Department of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature (CSCL), but also in a number of other contributing departments. Through the program's interdisciplinary framework, students explore the sounds and images of cinema as they have changed throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Print, photography, radio, television, video, and digital media are also considered crucial to understanding the medium. Students develop the ability to "read" the production and circulation of meaning in cinema, especially within the institutions of mass culture; examine the history of cinema cultures; engage the cross-cultural and global dynamics of cinema production and reception; and explore the theoretical models that have shaped thinking about the cinema and its relations to other media.

Although the major includes a production component, its principal focus is on cultural contexts, history, and theory.

Effective fall 2001, the Studies in Cinema and Media Culture BA replaced the Film Studies BA. Students who declared the Film Studies BA will be transferred to the SCMC BA. The departmental advisor can help students transfer programs.

For the latest information on the SCMC major, visit the CSCL website.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Admission Requirements

For information about University of Minnesota admission requirements, visit the Office of Admissions website.

General Requirements

All students are required to complete general University and college requirements including writing and liberal education courses. For more information about University-wide requirements, see the liberal education requirements.Required courses for the major or minor in which a student receives a D grade (with or without plus or minus) do not count toward the major or minor (including transfer courses).

Program Requirements

Students are required to take 4 semester(s) of any second language.

All CLA BA degrees require 18 upper-division (3xxx-level or higher) credits outside the major designator. These credits must be taken in designators different from the major designator and cannot include courses that are cross-listed with the major designator. The major designator for the Studies in Cinema and Media Culture BA is SCMC.

At least 15 upper-division credits in the major must be taken at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities campus.

A given course may only count towards one major requirement.

Students may earn a BA or a minor in studies in cinema and media culture, but not both.

All incoming CLA freshmen must complete the First-Year Experience course sequence.

Foundation Courses

Foundation courses teach students the histories, methodologies, and debates in the study of cinema and media culture. They are sequentially arranged so that students learn the necessary skills to progress from one stage of their undergraduate career to the next and to have the knowledge to move between the various departments that support the major.

Take 2 or more course(s) totaling 8 or more credit(s) from the following:

© 2005 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
Information current as of March 29, 2024

Introductory Course
Take exactly 1 course(s) totaling exactly 4 credit(s) from the following:
- SCMC 1201W - Cinema [AH, WI] (4.0 cr)
  or CSCL 1201W - Cinema [AH, WI] (4.0 cr)
- SCMC 1202W - Media: Word, Image, Sound [AH, TS, WI] (4.0 cr)
  or CSCL 1202W - Media: Word, Image, Sound [AH, TS, WI] (4.0 cr)
- ARTH 1921W - Introduction to Film Study [AH, WI] (4.0 cr)

•Formal Analysis Course
Take exactly 1 course(s) totaling exactly 4 credit(s) from the following:
- SCMC 3001W - History of Cinema and Media Culture [WI] (4.0 cr)
- ARTH 3921W - Art of the Film [AH, WI] (4.0 cr)

Understanding Context: Cinema and Media Representations, Mediations, and Industries
Context courses examine how cinema and media are produced, received and interpreted. Students examine how discourses of race, class, gender, sexuality, ethnicity and indigeneity are constructed, and critiqued, through cinema and media. Courses also focus on technological and institutional histories that condition the development of cinema and media. Context courses help students to understand the historiography of cinema and media and how thus is a field of active debate and analysis.
Take exactly 1 course(s) totaling 3 - 4 credit(s) from the following:
- AMST 3252W *{Inactive}*[HIS, CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
- AMST 3253W - American Popular Culture and Politics: 1940 to the Present [HIS, CIV, WI] (4.0 cr)
- CHIC 3223 - Chicana/o and Latina/o Representation in Film [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- COMM 3211 - Introduction to Media Studies (3.0 cr)
- COMM 3231 - Reality TV: History, Culture, and Economics (3.0 cr)
- COMM 5261 - Political Economy of Media Culture (3.0 cr)
- CSCL 3221 - On Television [CIV] (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3614 - History of Media Communication [HIS, TS] (3.0 cr)
- JOUR 3745 - Media and Popular Culture [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- AMIN 3402 - American Indians and the Cinema [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
  or AMIN 5402 - American Indians and the Cinema [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- CSCI 4921 - History of Computing [TS, HIS] (3.0 cr)
  or HSCI 4321 - History of Computing [TS, HIS] (3.0 cr)
- CSCL 3220W - Screen Cultures [AH, TS, WI] (3.0 cr)
  or SCMC 3220W - Screen Cultures [AH, TS, WI] (3.0 cr)

Making Cinema and Media: Production and Training Courses
Students in SCMC can take production courses from across CLA depending on their interests. These courses can include narrative, experimental and documentary approaches to cinema as well as interactive and multimedia practices. Students in SCMC who are interested in pursuing a production-rich curriculum are encouraged to meet with the SCMC undergraduate advisor and the film studies coordinator to chart a path that will best support a students creative goals.
Take exactly 1 course(s) totaling 3 - 4 credit(s) from the following:
- ARTS 1704 - Introduction to Moving Images [AH] (4.0 cr)
- ARTS 3230 - Sound Art (4.0 cr)
- ARTS 3240 *{Inactive}*(4.0 cr)
- ARTS 3710 - Black and White Darkroom Photography (4.0 cr)
- COMM 3201 - Introduction to Electronic Media Production (4.0 cr)
- COMM 3204 - Advanced Electronic Media Production (4.0 cr)
- COMM 4204 - Producing for Television: Theory and Practice (4.0 cr)
- ENGW 4205 - Screenwriting (3.0 cr)
- SCMC 3201 - Fundamentals of Digital Filmmaking (4.0 cr)
- SCMC 3202 - Intermediate Digital Filmmaking (4.0 cr)
- TH 4555 - Audio Technology (3.0 cr)
- ARTS 3740 - Lighting and the Constructed Image (4.0 cr)
  or ARTS 5740 *{Inactive}*(4.0 cr)
- ARTS 3750 - Narrative Digital Filmmaking (4.0 cr)
  or ARTS 5750 - Advanced Narrative Digital Filmmaking (4.0 cr)
- ARTS 3760 - Experimental Film and Video (4.0 cr)
  or ARTS 5760 - Experimental Film and Video (4.0 cr)
- ARTS 3770 - Animation (4.0 cr)
  or ARTS 5770 - Animation (4.0 cr)
- ARTS 3780 - Super 8 and 16 MM Filmmaking (4.0 cr)
  or ARTS 5780 - Advanced Super 8 and 16 MM Filmmaking (4.0 cr)

Mapping Cinema and Media: National, Transnational, Indigenous, and Minority Cinemas and Media
SCMC approaches cinema and media from a cross-cultural and global perspective that highlights the multiple traditions and movements that offer a larger picture of the vibrant and multi-vocal world of cinema and media. Course in this rubric examine national traditions as well as oppositional, avant-garde, or counter-hegemonic approaches to film, video, or new media. Students also

© 2005 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

investigate transnational and international traditions of cinema and media production, distribution, and consumption.
Take exactly 1 course(s) totaling 3 - 4 credit(s) from the following:
•AFRO 3654 - African Cinema [AH, GP] (3.0 cr)
•AMES 3356W - Chinese Film [AH, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AMES 3456 - Japanese Film [GP] (3.0 cr)
•AMES 3556 - Korean Film and Media [AH, GP] (3.0 cr)
•AMIN 3304 - Indigenous Filmmakers [AH] (3.0 cr)
•CSCL 3211 - Global and Transnational Cinemas [GP] (4.0 cr)
•CSCL 5411 - Avant-Garde Cinema (4.0 cr)
•FREN 3451 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•GER 3604W - Introduction to German Cinema [AH, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AMIN 3402 - American Indians and the Cinema [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or AMIN 5402 - American Indians and the Cinema [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3655 *{Inactive}*[AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or ARTH 3655 - African-American Cinema [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•GLBT 3305 - Queer Cinema [AH] (3.0 cr)
or GWSS 3305 - Queer Cinema [AH] (3.0 cr)

Analyzing Cinema and Media: Courses in Theory, Method, and Critique
Analysis courses are just that: courses in which students develop the tools to analyze film and media. Here students learn about the multiple theories of cinema and media as well as their historical and social origins. The courses in this rubric give students the conceptual tools that they need in order to view, discuss, and produce cinema and media in a critical, constructive, and nuanced manner.
Take exactly 1 course(s) totaling 3 - 4 credit(s) from the following:
•COMM 3263W - Media Literacy: Decoding Media Images and Messages [WI] (3.0 cr)
•COMM 4245 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•COMM 5211 - Critical Media Studies: Theory and Methods (3.0 cr)
•CSCL 3221 - On Television [CIV] (3.0 cr)
•CSCL 3212W - Documentary Cinema: History and Politics [AH, CIV, WI] (4.0 cr)
•GWSS 3307 - Feminist Film Studies [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•SCMC 5001 - Critical Debates in the Study of Cinema and Media Culture (4.0 cr)
•SCMC 5002 - Advanced Film Analysis (4.0 cr)
•CSCL 3210 - Cinema and Ideology [AH] (4.0 cr)
or SCMC 3210 - Cinema and Ideology [AH] (4.0 cr)

Electives
The electives within SCMC are drawn from across the College and represent a broad range of issues, histories, and practices within cinema and media cultures. Students are encouraged to explore this breadth while, at the same time, developing a personalized set of interests. To this end, students should consult regularly with the SCMC Academic Advisor, the Film Studies Coordinator, and faculty members.
Take 3 or more course(s) totaling 9 or more credit(s) from the following:
•AFRO 3654 - African Cinema [AH, GP] (3.0 cr)
•AMES 3356W - Chinese Film [AH, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AMES 3456 - Japanese Film [GP] (3.0 cr)
•AMES 3556 - Korean Film and Media [AH, GP] (3.0 cr)
•AMIN 3304 - Indigenous Filmmakers [AH] (3.0 cr)
•AMST 3252W *{Inactive}*[HIS, CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AMST 3253W - American Popular Culture and Politics: 1940 to the Present [HIS, CIV, WI] (4.0 cr)
•ARTH 3921W - Art of the Film [AH, WI] (4.0 cr)
•ARTS 3240 *{Inactive}*(4.0 cr)
•ARTS 3730 - Intermediate Digital Photography (4.0 cr)
•ARTS 5610 *{Inactive}*(4.0 cr)
•COMM 3201 - Introduction to Electronic Media Production (4.0 cr)
•COMM 3204 - Advanced Electronic Media Production (4.0 cr)
•COMM 3211 - Introduction to Media Studies (3.0 cr)
•COMM 3231 - Reality TV: History, Culture, and Economics (3.0 cr)
•COMM 3263W - Media Literacy: Decoding Media Images and Messages [WI] (3.0 cr)
•COMM 4245 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•COMM 4263 - Feminist Media Studies [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•COMM 5211 - Critical Media Studies: Theory and Methods (3.0 cr)
•COMM 5261 - Political Economy of Media Culture (3.0 cr)
•CSCL 3211 - Global and Transnational Cinemas [GP] (4.0 cr)
•CSCL 3221 - On Television [CIV] (3.0 cr)
•CSCL 3212W - Documentary Cinema: History and Politics [AH, CIV, WI] (4.0 cr)
•CSCL 5411 - Avant-Garde Cinema (4.0 cr)
•ENGW 4205 - Screenwriting (3.0 cr)

© 2005 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

•FREN 3451 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•GER 3604W - Introduction to German Cinema [AH, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•GWSS 3307 - Feminist Film Studies [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•JOUR 3614 - History of Media Communication [HIS, TS] (3.0 cr)
•JOUR 3741 - Diversity and Media [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•JOUR 3745 - Media and Popular Culture [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•JOUR 3786 - Media and Politics (3.0 cr)
•SCMC 3001W - History of Cinema and Media Culture [WI] (4.0 cr)
•SCMC 3201 - Fundamentals of Digital Filmmaking (4.0 cr)
•SCMC 3202 - Intermediate Digital Filmmaking (4.0 cr)
•SCMC 5001 - Critical Debates in the Study of Cinema and Media Culture (4.0 cr)
•SCMC 5002 - Advanced Film Analysis (4.0 cr)
•AAS 3409W - Asian American Women's Cultural Production [AH, DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
or GWSS 3409W - Asian American Women's Cultural Production [AH, DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3655 *{Inactive}*[AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or ARTH 3655 - African-American Cinema [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•AMIN 3402 - American Indians and the Cinema [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or AMIN 5402 - American Indians and the Cinema [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•ARTS 3750 - Narrative Digital Filmmaking (4.0 cr)
or ARTS 5750 - Advanced Narrative Digital Filmmaking (4.0 cr)
•ARTS 3760 - Experimental Film and Video (4.0 cr)
or ARTS 5760 - Experimental Film and Video (4.0 cr)
•CSCI 4921 - History of Computing [TS, HIS] (3.0 cr)
or HSCI 4321 - History of Computing [TS, HIS] (3.0 cr)
•CSCL 3210 - Cinema and Ideology [AH] (4.0 cr)
or SCMC 3210 - Cinema and Ideology [AH] (4.0 cr)
•GEOG 3374W - The City in Film [AH, WI] (4.0 cr)
or GEOG 3374V *{Inactive}*[AH, WI] (4.0 cr)
or GEOG 5374 *{Inactive}*(4.0 cr)

•1xxx-level Courses

No more than 1 elective can be at the 1xxx level.
Take no more than 1 course(s) from the following:
•AMES 1001 - Asian Film and Animation [AH, GP] (3.0 cr)
•ARTH 1921W - Introduction to Film Study [AH, WI] (4.0 cr)
•ARTS 1704 - Introduction to Moving Images [AH] (4.0 cr)
•GER 1601 *{Inactive}*[AH] (3.0 cr)
•CSCL 1201W - Cinema [AH, WI] (4.0 cr)
or SCMC 1201W - Cinema [AH, WI] (4.0 cr)
•JOUR 1001 - Media in a Changing World [SOCS, TS] (3.0 cr)
or JOUR 1001H - Media in a Changing World [SOCS, TS] (3.0 cr)

•Directed Studies, Internships, and Topics

Directed studies, topics courses, and internships allow students to pursue individualized research, study, and work projects. To pursue a directed study, students must propose a topic and course of study to a faculty member. A faculty/student contract must be completed and submitted. Students interested in internship opportunities should discuss possibilities with the SCMC academic advisor or the film studies coordinator. They are also encouraged to apply for the CLA Internship Scholarship.
Take no more than 3 course(s) from the following:

Directed Studies/Internship

Students may count a maximum of 3 directed studies courses, internships, and topics courses toward the major. No more than 2 directed studies/internships may count towards the major.
Take no more than 2 course(s) from the following:
•SCMC 3993 - Directed Study (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
•SCMC 4993 - Directed Study (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
•SCMC 5993 - Directed Study (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
•CSCL 3993 - Directed Study (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
•CSCL 5944H *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•CSCL 4993 - Directed Study (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
•CSCL 5993 - Directed Study (1.0 - 3.0 cr)

•Topics

No more than 2 topics courses may count towards the major.
Take no more than 2 course(s) from the following:
•AMES 3250 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•AMES 5250 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•ENGL 3040 - Studies in Film (3.0 cr)
•FRIT 3850 - Topics in French and Italian Cinema (3.0 cr)
•FRIT 5850 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•GER 5630 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)

© 2005 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

•PORT 3800 - Film Studies in Portuguese (3.0 cr)
•SCMC 3910 - Topics in Studies in Cinema and Media Culture (3.0 cr)
•SPAN 3800 - Film Studies in Spanish (3.0 cr)
•Other topics courses approved by the Film Studies Coordinator, based on the specific topic

Capstone

The Capstone represents the culmination of a students work and development within SCMC and will allow them to pursue individualized interests through an advanced curriculum. When choosing a capstone option students should meet with the SCMC academic advisor or the film studies coordinator to determine the most productive path for their individual goals and interests. Both SCMC 5001 & 5002 focus on advanced theoretical and analytical models that emphasize a close reading of media and cinema.
Take exactly 1 course(s) totaling exactly 4 credit(s) from the following:
Students who double major and choose to complete the capstone requirement in their other major are still required to take the Studies in Cinema and Media Culture BA capstone.

SCMC 5001

SCMC 5001 is oriented toward contemporary issues in media and cinema and how these are informed by larger traditions.
SCMC 5001 - Critical Debates in the Study of Cinema and Media Culture (4.0 cr)
or **SCMC 5002**
SCMC 5002 focuses on a comprehensive analysis of the history of film criticism and its theoretical and methodological underpinnings.
SCMC 5002 - Advanced Film Analysis (4.0 cr)

Upper Division Writing Intensive within the major

Students are required to take one upper division writing intensive course within the major. If that requirement has not been satisfied within the core major requirements, students must choose one course from the following list. Some of these courses may also fulfill other major requirements.
Take 0 - 1 course(s) from the following:
•AMES 3356W - Chinese Film [AH, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AMST 3252W *{Inactive}*[HIS, CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AMST 3253W - American Popular Culture and Politics: 1940 to the Present [HIS, CIV, WI] (4.0 cr)
•ARTH 3921W - Art of the Film [AH, WI] (4.0 cr)
•COMM 3263W - Media Literacy: Decoding Media Images and Messages [WI] (3.0 cr)
•CSCL 3212W - Documentary Cinema: History and Politics [AH, CIV, WI] (4.0 cr)
•GER 3604W - Introduction to German Cinema [AH, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•SCMC 3001W - History of Cinema and Media Culture [WI] (4.0 cr)
•GWSS 3409W - Asian American Women's Cultural Production [AH, DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
or AAS 3409W - Asian American Women's Cultural Production [AH, DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
•GEOG 3374W - The City in Film [AH, WI] (4.0 cr)
or GEOG 3374V *{Inactive}*[AH, WI] (4.0 cr)

© 2005 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
Information current as of March 29, 2024