Cinema and Cultural Studies (CCS)

Interdisciplinary Major and Minor in Cinema and Cultural Studies

Department of Cultural Analysis and Theory, College of Arts and Sciences
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Cinema and Cultural Studies (CCS)

Administered by the Department of Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies, the major in Cinema and Cultural Studies considers film as a form of representation in and of itself and in relation to other disciplines such as literature, art, and theatre. By emphasizing the emerging discipline of cultural studies, the major is designed to show how cultural forms such as cinema and the other arts develop and interact with each other and with social, historical, and economic forces. The major’s core courses place strong emphasis on writing skills and critical thinking about film and other cultural forms. Students are also taught “media literacy”-the ability to read the many images we encounter every day in an age when images are being used for manipulation as never before. Students are encouraged to apply knowledge in the classroom to practical situations through internships in film and advertising industries or through independent research.

Students majoring in Cinema and Cultural Studies are prepared to undertake graduate study in many humanistic disciplines and to enter into careers in the film industry, communications, advertising, marketing, and public relations.

Requirements for the Major in Cinema and Cultural Studies

The interdisciplinary major in Cinema and Cultural Studies leads to the Bachelor or Arts degree. The following courses are required and must be taken for a letter grade. All courses offered to satisfy major requirements must be passed with a grade of C or higher.

Completion of the major requires 39 credits. Twenty-four credits for the major must be earned in courses numbered 300 or higher.

A. Core Courses

• CCS 101 Introduction to Cinema & Cultural Studies
• CCS 201 Writing About Cinema & Cultural Studies
• CCS 301 Theorizing Cinema & Cultural Studies
• CCS 401 Senior Seminar in Cinema & Cultural Studies

B. Lower Division Requirements

• CCS 202 Film Genres
• CCS 205 Cinema History: Late 19th Century - WW2
• CCS 206 Cinema History: Post-War - Present

C. Upper Division Concentration (18 Credits)
Choose two courses from each of the three groups.

Group 1: Areas

• AFS 345 Women in Africa and the Caribbean
• ARH 329 Arts of the African Diaspora
• CCS 325 Cultures in Context*
• CCS 390 Topics in Latin American Cinema
• CCS 391 Topics in African Cinema
• CCS 392 Topics in American Cinema
• CCS 393 Topics in European Cinema
• CCS 394 Topics in Asian Cinema
• CLT 391 African Comparative Literature
• CLT 392 Multicultural Comparative Literature
• CLT 393 European Comparative Literature
• CLT 394 Asian Comparative Literature
• EGL 305 The Pacific, Travel & Empire
• EGL 373 Literature in English form Non-Western Cultures
• SPN 420 Topics in Spanish and Latin American Cinema
• WST 335 Women at Work in Twentieth-Century America
• WST 382 Black Women's Literature of the African Diaspora
• WST 395 Topics in Global Feminism
• WST 397 Topics in Social Science

Group 2: Histories
• ARH 335 History of Photography
• ARH 345 The Moving Image in 20th Century Art
• CCS 312 Cinema and the Ancient World
• CCS 324 Jazz and American Culture
• CCS 325 Cultures in Context*
• CCS 327 Histories of Culture
• CCS 396 Video and Computer Game History
• CLT 362 Literature and Ideas
• CLT 363 Literature and the Arts
• HIS 326 History of Popular Culture
• HIS 361 American History/American Film
• MUS 310 Music and Culture in the 1960s
• WST 301 Histories of Feminism
• WST 374 Historical Perspectives
• WST 396 Special Topics in the History of American Women

Group 3: Theories
• ARH 336 Digital Visual Culture
• CCS 311 Gender and Genre in Film
• CCS 313 Television Studies
• CCS 325 Cultures in Context*
• CCS 326 Social and Cultural Theory
• CLT 335 Interdisciplinary Study of Film
• CCS 395 Digital Cultural Studies
• CCS 397 Video and Computer Game Culture
• CLT 301 Theory of Literature
• CLT 330 Literary Genres
• MUS 300 Music, Technology, and Digital Culture
• EGL 365 Literary Criticism and Theory
• SOC 330 Media and Society
• THR 403 Media Theory and Criticism
• WST 305 Feminist Theories in Context
• WST 372 Topics in Women and Literature
• WST 383 Philosophical Issues of Race and Gender
• WST 384 Advanced Topics in Feminist Philosophy
• WST 398 Topics in Gender, Race, Ethnicity
• WST 399 Topics in Gender and Sexuality

*CCS 325 Cultures in Context may be repeated and used in other Upper Division Areas of Concentration depending on the topic and with approval from the UG Advisor or UGPD.

D. Upper-Division Writing Requirement

All students are required to write a research paper of 15–20 pages for CCS 401, which is evaluated by the instructor for its evidence of upper-division writing ability. Students whose writing is judged satisfactory will have fulfilled the upper-division writing requirement. Students who do not fulfill the requirement in CCS 401 must submit to the major advisor, no later than the first semester of the senior year, a portfolio of papers written for subsequent upper-division courses taken for the major and must achieve an evaluation of satisfactory on the portfolio. CCS 401 also satisfies the Stony Brook Curriculum WRTD learning objective.

Notes:
1. Students may apply one of the following courses for 3 of the 18 upper-division credits upon approval of the UGPD: CCS 487 Independent Research in Cinema and Cultural Studies, CCS 488 Internship, or CCS 495 Senior Honors Project in Cinema and Cultural Studies.
2. Other relevant courses may be substituted for major requirements with permission of the undergraduate program director.
3. Most of the upper-division courses in the concentration groups have lower-division course(s) as pre-requisites. Bear this in mind when planning the early stages of your major.

Honors Program
Students who have maintained a grade point average of 3.50 in the major and 3.00 overall may attempt the degree in Cinema and Cultural Studies with honors. Students should apply for the honors program at the end of their junior year. The student must find a faculty member affiliated with the program to act as sponsor and, with written approval of the sponsor, submit a written proposal for an honors thesis or honors project to the Undergraduate Program Director. If the honors thesis or project is judged to be completed with distinction and the student has achieved a 3.50 g.p.a. in all courses for the Cinema and Cultural Studies major taken during the senior year, honors are conferred. Course credit for the honors thesis or project is given under CCS 495.

Minor

The minor in Cinema and Cultural Studies is designed to provide a broad overview of film and culture and to complement most majors in the arts and sciences.

Requirements for the Minor in Cinema and Cultural Studies (CCS)

All courses for the minor must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher. All courses offered to satisfy minor requirements must be passed with a grade of C or higher.

Completion of the minor requires 21 credits.

A. CCS 101 Introduction to Cinema & Cultural Studies
B. Two of the following courses:
   - CCS 201 Writing about Cinema & Cultural Studies
   - CCS 202 Film Genres
   - CCS 205 Cinema History: Late 19th Century - WW2
   - CCS 206 Cinema History: Post-War - Present
C. CCS 301 Theorizing Cinema and Culture
D. Choose one course from each of the three groups below.

Group 1: Areas
   - AFS 345 Women in Africa and the Caribbean
   - ARH 329 Arts of the African Diaspora
   - CCS 325 Cultures in Context*
   - CCS 390 Topics in Latin American Cinema
   - CCS 391 Topics in African Cinema
   - CCS 392 Topics in American Cinema
   - CCS 393 Topics in European Cinema
   - CCS 394 Topics in Asian Cinema
   - CLT 391 African Comparative Literature
   - CLT 392 Multicultural Comparative Literature
   - CLT 393 European Comparative Literature
   - CLT 394 Asian Comparative Literature
   - EGL 305 The Pacific, Travel & Empire
   - EGL 373 Literature in English form Non-Western Cultures
   - SPN 420 Topics in Spanish and Latin American Cinema
   - WST 335 Women at Work in Twentieth-Century America
   - WST 382 Black Women's Literature of the African Diaspora
   - WST 395 Topics in Global Feminism
   - WST 397 Topics in Social Science

Group 2: Histories
   - ARH 335 History of Photography
   - ARH 345 The Moving Image in 20th Century Art
   - CCS 312 Cinema and the Ancient World
   - CCS 324 Jazz and American Culture
   - CCS 325 Cultures in Context*
   - CCS 327 Histories of Culture
   - CCS 396 Video and Computer Game History
   - CLT 362 Literature and Ideas
   - CLT 363 Literature and the Arts
   - HIS 326 History of Popular Culture
   - HIS 361 American History/American Film
   - MUS 310 Music and Culture in the 1960s
   - WST 301 Histories of Feminism
   - WST 374 Historical Perspectives
• WST 396 Special Topics in the History of American Women

Group 3: Theories

• ARH 336 Digital Visual Culture
• CCS 311 Gender and Genre in Film
• CCS 313 Television Studies
• CCS 325 Cultures in Context*
• CCS 326 Social and Cultural Theory
• CLT 335 Interdisciplinary Study of Film
• CCS 395 Digital Cultural Studies
• CCS 397 Video and Computer Game Culture
• CLT 301 Theory of Literature
• CLT 330 Literary Genres
• MUS 300 Music, Technology, and Digital Culture
• EGL 365 Literary Criticism and Theory
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• WST 383 Philosophical Issues of Race and Gender
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• WST 398 Topics in Gender, Race, Ethnicity
• WST 399 Topics in Gender and Sexuality

*CCS 325 Cultures in Context may be repeated and used in other Upper Division Areas of Concentration depending on the topic and with approval from the UG Advisor or UGPD.

Notes:
1. Only one course from CCS 487 Independent Research in Cinema and Cultural Studies or CCS 488 Internship may be applied towards the minor's upper division requirements with approval from the UG Advisor or UGPD.
2. Most of the upper-division courses have some lower-division course(s) as pre-requisites. Bear this in mind in planning the early stages of your minor.

Sample Course Sequence for the Major in Cinema and Cultural Studies
A course planning guide for this major may be found here.

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CCS 101: Introduction to Cinema & Cultural Studies
An examination of mediated images and how they characterize and shape our everyday lives. Students learn how to recognize, read, and analyze visual media (which may include: film, television, advertising, photography, music videos, art, graphic design, machinima, and web-based images) within the social, cultural, and political contexts of cinema and cultural studies.
DEC:  B
SBC:  ARTS, HUM
3 credits

CCS 201: Writing About Cinema & Cultural Studies
The course teaches research methodology, develops critical thinking, and hones argumentative writing skills. A range of cultural artifacts, issues, and approaches are considered along with the ways that various discourses appropriate or critique them. Students gain extensive training in the methods essential to the use of resources and to critical writing.
Prerequisite: Completion of D.E.C. category A
SBC:  ESI
3 credits

CCS 202: Film Genres
An introduction to the study of film through the examination of multiple genres. Special attention is given to how film deals with issues of race and gender.
DEC:  D
SBC:  ARTS
3 credits

CCS 204: The Stony Brook Film Festival: Films and Contexts
We will attend the Stony Brook Film Festival as active participants. Students will be introduced to the history of film festivals and examine issues of film distribution and acquisition and how they relate to both the mainstream and independent film traditions. At the Stony Brook Film Festival, students will see the films, interact with both the organizers and the filmmakers, and engage in lively discussion about the films and the filmmaking process. Students will gain basic cinematic terminology, analytical tools used to interpret cinematic art and a basic understanding of the cinema industry.

CCS 205: Cinema History: Late 19th Century to WWII
An introductory study of cinema history from the 19th century to World War II. Emphasis is placed on cinema history within the contexts of: exhibition, audience, regulation, technology, film form, style, and movements, industry, distribution, and select national contributions.
DEC:  D
SBC:  ARTS
3 credits

CCS 206: Cinema History: Post-War-Present
An introductory study of cinema history from the post-War period to the present. Emphasis is placed on cinema history within the contexts of: exhibition, audience, regulation, technology, film form, style, and movements, industry, distribution, and select national contributions.
DEC:  D
SBC:  ARTS
3 credits

CCS 210: Writing about Culture
An introduction to the ideas and techniques used in the ethnographic study of culture. Designed to develop skills to read and interpret ethnography, to use various media in the conduct of ethnographic research, and to write ethnographic reports. Focus is on practical experiential learning of the ethnographer's craft, combined with peer-based assessment and critique.
DEC:  F
SBC:  SBS
3 credits

CCS 301: Theorizing Cinema & Cultural Studies
Recent trends in critical theory applied to the study of film, television, literature, popular music, and other types of "cultural production." In-depth analyses of specific literary, visual, and musical texts are situated within structures of power among communities, nations, and individuals. Exploration of how identities of locality, gender, ethnicity, race, and class are negotiated through cultural forms.
Prerequisite: CCS 101 or CCS 201
DEC:  G
SBC:  CER, HFA+
3 credits

CCS 311: Gender and Genre in Film
Examination of the notion of genre as a category of analysis and its often conflictive relationship to gender in the context of specific genres (the western, film noir, the horror film) and film story. Attention is paid to a particular genre's appeal to men and/or women as well as its relationship to larger social, cultural, and political issues. May be repeated as the topic changes.
Prerequisite: one D.E.C. B or HUM course and one course from the following: CCS 101, CCS 201, CLL 215, CLT 235, HUF 211, HUG 221, HUI 231, HUR 241, THR 117, EGL 204, WST 291, WST 305
DEC:  G
SBC:  HFA+
3 credits

CCS 312: Cinema and the Ancient World
A reading of Classical Texts alongside their representation in the cinema. Readings will include classical literature, contemporary treatments of the classics, and film theory. We will pay special attention to how filmmakers are much more attentive to ideas from the present than from the past when they construct their films around ancient texts.
Prerequisite: one D.E.C. B or HUM course and one course from the following: CCS 101, CCS 201, CLL 215, CLT 235, HUF 211, HUG 221, HUI 231, HUR 241, THR 117
DEC:  I
SBC:  HFA+
3 credits

CCS 313: Television Studies
This course maps the social, cultural, and technological changes that the medium/media of television has experienced from its early ties to radio models of broadcast to the changes in reception wrought by the iPod.
Prerequisite: one D.E.C. B or HUM course; CCS 101
DEC:  H
SBC:  STAS
3 credits

CCS 324: Jazz and American Culture
An exploration of African American jazz and its importance and representation in American history and culture. We will consider novels, poems, stories, paintings, and photographs with jazz content as well as films by both Hollywood and documentary filmmakers. Special emphasis will be given to the myths that have dominated representations of jazz.
artists as well as the ways in which jazz artists have inspired artists and writers. This course is offered as both CCS 324 and MUS 324.
Prerequisite: MUS 308 or one course in CCS, CLT, or HUM
DEC: K & 4
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

CCS 325: Culture in Context
Theoretical and methodological examination of culture within specific contexts, settings, or time-periods. Emphasis may include historical, social, economic, political, ecological or material contexts. May be repeated as the topic changes.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
DEC: F
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

CCS 326: Social and Cultural Theory
In-depth exploration of social and cultural theories from a multi-disciplinary perspective. Emphasis will include application of major theoretical paradigms upon social and cultural practices, histories, and phenomena. May be repeated as the topic changes.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
DEC: G
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

CCS 327: Topics in Histories of Culture
An examination of culture within diverse historical contexts. Emphasis is placed on the role of culture within the writing, documentation, and evidencing of history. Attention may be focused on a particular era, group, institution, type of object, or event. May be repeated as the topic changes, to a maximum of 6 credits.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
DEC: G
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

CCS 390: Topics in Latin American Cinema
This course studies a variety of aspects connected with the production, distribution, and reception of cinema in Latin America. Course includes a representative sample of films produced in every one of the major Latin American film producing nations (Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, and Cuba). It will also review a short selection of minor Latin American cinematographies and of indigenous film productions. All films will always be studied within the social, political and artistic context in which these works are produced. Readings include works by Latin American film directors and theorists that have contributed to the study of the films in the region and of film as a world art form. Repeatable as the topic changes, for a maximum of 6 credits.
Prerequisite: one D.E.C. B or HUM course and one course from the following: CCS 101, CCS 201, CLL 215, CLT 235, HUF 211, HUG 221, HUI 231, HUR 241, THR 117
DEC: K
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

CCS 391: Topics in Contemporary African Cinema and Cultural Studies
This course will examine African traditions of graphic writing in their theoretical, literary, and cinematographic application. The emphasis will be placed on the visual arts and their political significance in contemporary African debates, and of particular interest will be the production of contemporary artists, the strategies they use, and their impact in both global and local discourses. The artifacts will additionally serve as tools to investigate the modalities of a contemporary African self-understanding through the lenses of images and graphic design. Repeatable as the topic changes, for a maximum of 6 credits.
Prerequisite: one D.E.C. B or HUM course and one course from the following: CCS 101, CCS 201, CLL 215, CLT 235, HUF 211, HUG 221, HUI 231, HUR 241, THR 117
DEC: J
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

CCS 392: Topics in American Cinema and Cultural Studies
The history of cinema as art has been directly linked to the evolution and increment of multicultural societies. This course studies the ways in which film has either included or excluded representations of multiculturalism in the United States, and how films have discussed and participated in the different debates about cultural, ethnic, racial, sexual, gender and class difference within the United States. The course studies theoretical concepts such as difference, ethnicity, migration, incorporation and cultural contact zones. Repeatable as the topic changes, for a maximum of 6 credits.
Prerequisite: one D.E.C. B or HUM course and one course from the following: CCS 101, CCS 201, CLL 215, CLT 235, HUF 211, HUG 221, HUI 231, HUR 241, THR 117
DEC: K
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

CCS 393: Topics in European Cinema and Cultural Studies
A comparative study of European cinema in a historical, cultural, and political context. The course will concentrate on those films and movements that achieved a major impact in their country of origin as well as received international critical attention. Repeatable as the topic changes, for a maximum of 6 credits.
Prerequisite: one D.E.C. B or HUM course and one course from the following: CCS 101, CCS 201, CLL 215, CLT 235, HUF 211, HUG 221, HUI 231, HUR 241, THR 117
DEC: I
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

CCS 394: Topics in Asian Cinema and Cultural Studies
This course is an overview of the history of Asian cinemas, with an emphasis on the geopolitical study of China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, and Taiwan. By focusing on issues relating to nationhood, cultural production, gender relations, and the impact of colonialism and globalization, the course will explore the commonalities, and/or particularities between the various cinemas, based on a set of overlapping themes and cultural aesthetics. Repeatable as the topic changes, for a maximum of 6 credits.
Prerequisite: one D.E.C. B or HUM course and one course from the following: CCS 101, CCS 201, CLL 215, CLT 235, HUF 211, HUG 221, HUI 231, HUR 241, THR 117
DEC: J
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

CCS 395: Digital Cultural Studies
This course critically examines how digital media and technology assist in the redesign of our political, economic, social, and cultural worlds. Special attention is paid to theories of digital media and historical developments of new technologies, as well as cultural practices with emergent technology.
Prerequisite: one D.E.C. B or HUM course; CCS 101
DEC: H
SBC: STAS
3 credits

CCS 396: Video and Computer Game History
The course examines video/computer games as historical artifacts while studying the
processes of writing/documenting the history of videogames. Students will engage with histories of gaming companies and platforms, game designer memoirs, fiction, criticism, game analysis, theoretical writing, descriptive historical accounts, preservation practices, and ephemeral forms of historic documentation. Students will also have hands-on access to various console games from the 1970s to the present. This course is offered as both CCS 396 and DIA 396.

Prerequisite: CCS 101; one D.E.C. B or HUM course or D.E.C. D or ARTS course

DEC: H
SBC: STAS
3 credits

CCS 397: Video and Computer Game Culture

The course critically examines videogames within cultural, social, and political contexts. It will showcase the interaction between technology and culture and society by examining videogames in terms of play and game play, racial and gendered representation, racism and sexism, games in a global context of online play, power-relations between gamers, violence and moral panics, and military propaganda. This course is offered as both CCS 397 and DIA 397.

Prerequisite: CCS 101; one D.E.C. B or HUM course or D.E.C. D or ARTS course

DEC: H
SBC: STAS
3 credits

CCS 401: Senior Seminar in Cinema & Cultural Studies

Intensive study in a specific area of cinema and cultural studies. Possible topics include a film genre, a focused theoretical perspective, and the life and work of an important director or artist. May be repeated as the topic changes.

Prerequisite: CCS major and U4 standing; CCS 301

SBC: SPK, WRTD
3 credits

CCS 475: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum

Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member's regularly scheduled classes. The student is required to attend all the classes, do all the regularly assigned work and meet with the faculty member at regularly scheduled times to discuss the intellectual and pedagogical matters relating to the course.

Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing; permission of instructor and department

SBC: EXP+
3 credits, S/U grading

CCS 476: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum II

Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member's regularly scheduled classes. Students assume greater responsibility in such areas as leading discussions and analyzing results of tests that have already been graded. Students may not serve as teaching assistants in the same course twice.

Prerequisites: CCS 475; permission of instructor and chairperson

SBC: EXP+
3 credits, S/U grading

CCS 487: Independent Research in Cinema and Cultural Studies

Intensive readings and research on a special topic undertaken with close faculty supervision. May be repeated.

Prerequisites: Permission of instructor and department

0-6 credits

CCS 488: Internship

May be repeated up to a maximum of 6 credits, but only 3 credits may be applied toward the cinema and cultural studies major.

Prerequisite: Permission of program advisor

SBC: EXP+
0-6 credits, S/U grading

CCS 495: Senior Honors Project in Cinema and Cultural Studies

A one-semester project for cinema and cultural studies majors who are candidates for the degree with departmental honors. The project involves completion of an honors thesis or project under the close supervision of an appropriate faculty member and the written and oral presentation of the thesis or presentation of the project to the program faculty colloquium.

Prerequisites: Permission of instructor and undergraduate program director

3 credits