Film and Media Studies

The program in Film and Media Studies (FMS) provides students who are interested in the history, criticism, and theories of moving image-based visual culture, from the 19th through the 21st centuries, an opportunity to extend their formal intellectual training and explore film and electronic media as evolving global phenomena. The Certificate as well as the master's degree in FMS advance a student's scholarly understanding of all forms of the moving image and their artistic, cultural, industrial, philosophical, political, and social implications.

The Certificate is by application and is open to PhD students in other academic units. It consists of 15 hours of FMS course work. Six hours of the certificate may be counted in the student's PhD requirements. The master's degree emphasizes multiple approaches of academic study that may lead to curating, researching, teaching, and other professional activities centered on film and other moving image media. Master's students must fulfill the basic requirements for the AM degree as set forth in this Graduate School catalog and complete a course of study consisting of 36 hours of credit. All FMS master's degree students take a comprehensive exam. There is no thesis option in this degree.

Students already enrolled at Washington University in St. Louis with a major in film and media studies may wish to consider the master's program as part of an accelerated AB/AM option. Washington University students who are admitted in the combined AB/AM program may have up to 9 hours of FMS course credit at the 400 level considered for application to AM degree requirements. Students who are currently enrolled as undergraduates at Washington University and are seeking the combined AB/AM degree should use the standard application form of the Graduate School to apply.

Students applying to the Film and Media Studies master's from outside the university should follow the standard application procedures of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences (http://graduateschool.wustl.edu/forms). Graduate Record Exam scores indicating an aptitude for graduate study are required, as well as strong letters of recommendations from three instructors who can speak to the applicant's academic skills relevant to graduate study in film and media studies. Applicants who have completed an undergraduate degree and show outstanding promise in writing about film and media but do not have formal film/media studies training may be admitted. All applicants to the master's program in FMS should have a strong academic foundation in critical writing and thinking. At least one writing sample of no less than 3,000 words is required and a letter of approximately 500 words describing the candidate's interest in film and media studies and how her or his intellectual background has prepared the applicant for graduate study in FMS.

All applicants to the Certificate, AB/AM, or master's degree in FMS are welcome to consult with the Director of Graduate Studies about the application process.

Phone: (314) 935-4056
E-mail: gstudlar@wustl.edu

Departmental website: http://fms.artsci.wustl.edu/graduate

Director
Gaylyn Studlar
David May Distinguished University Professor
PhD, University of Southern California

Professor
William Paul
PhD, Columbia University

Assistant Professors
Colin Burnett
PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Diane Wei Lewis
PhD, University of Chicago

Senior Lecturer
Richard Chapman

Postdoctoral Fellow
Michelle Kelley
PhD, New York University

Degree Requirements
Certificate Program

Required courses for the graduate certificate:

Core Courses (9 credits):
- L53 Film 501 Advanced Moving Image Analysis and Criticism (3 credits)
- L53 Film 421 Film Historiography OR L53 Film 502 Seminar in History of Film and/or Electronic Media (rotating topics) (3 credits)

One of the following theory courses is required as part of the core:
- L53 Film 419 Theories of Mass Media (3 credits)
- L53 Film 420 Film Theory (3 credits)
- L53 Film 450 American Film Genres (genre theory) (3 credits)
• Any 400- or 500-level course in film or electronic media theory.

Certificate students also have two electives (6 units) that may be taken at the 400 or 500 level and developed in an advising plan, subject to approval of the Film and Media Studies adviser and of the Director of Graduate Studies of the student's home unit:

**Two Electives (6 credits):**

Each 3 credit elective course in Film and Media Studies must be at the 400 level or higher.

Elective: Courses originating in Film and Media Studies or cross-listed with Film and Media Studies, or offered in another unit and approved by the student's Film and Media Studies adviser.

A student may choose to take one Independent Study of 3 credits (LS3 Film 500) with a Film and Media Studies faculty member as an elective. This study should relate to a specialized topic mutually agreed upon by the student, his or her Film and Media Studies adviser and the Chair of the Graduate Certificate Program. Although students are expected to benefit from elective courses offered by Film and Media Studies core and affiliated faculty, they may take other film-related courses as may be offered by other departments and by faculty not affiliated with Film and Media Studies. To be included in the graduate certificate course work, classes that fall within this category require approval by the student's adviser in Film and Media Studies and her or his home unit's Director of Graduate Studies.

**Master's Program**

**Course of Study**

Students must fulfill the basic requirements for the AM degree as set forth in this Graduate School catalog. In addition, AM candidates must take the course of study described below that consists of 36 hours of credit and a comprehensive examination.

There is one course of study for the AM in Film and Media Studies. There is no thesis option in this degree. Students complete 36 semester hours (12 courses) defined by the three areas listed below. During their final semester of course work, students take a comprehensive written examination and meet with the examining committee for an oral defense. The examining committee will consist of the DGS, the student’s adviser, and one other faculty member, core or affiliated in Film and Media. These exams are based on reading and screening lists as well as on course work. The student must meet expectations for broad knowledge of the field appropriate for a master's degree student in the humanities. Normally, if the student expects a May graduation date, then he or she must complete the examinations by April 7 of the spring semester. All course work should be completed by the end of the semester in which the examination is scheduled. Students should consult with the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) in their first semester in the program to obtain the master's students’ reading and screening list and consult regularly with their adviser.

Students entering the program from outside the university should expect to take two years to finish the master's degree if they take 9 hours per semester, less time if they take more.

**Area I: Required Courses (15 hours total)**

Core subjects of study:

1. Visual Analysis
2. Moving Image Theory
3. Historiography of the Moving Image
4. Television & Digital Studies
5. Cinema and Television Beyond the United States

**The requirements for Area I may be fulfilled through the following course work:**

**Visual Analysis**

Film 501 Advanced Moving Image Analysis and Criticism

**Moving Image Theory**

Film 419 Theories of Mass Media or Film 420 Film Theory or Film 502 Seminar in film and media theory (rotating topics)

**Historiography of the Moving Image**

Film 421 Film Historiography or Film 423 Histories of Media Convergence

**Television and Visual Studies**

Film 503 Seminar in Television Studies (rotating topics) or Film 504 Seminar in Digital Studies (rotating topics) or any 400- or 500-level FMS course in television or electronic media.

**Cinema and Television beyond the United States**

Any 400- or 500-level national, regional, or transnational cinemas or television studies course offered in FMS.

**Area II: Electives (18 hours)**

In addition, during their matriculation, students must take 18 hours of credit at the 400 or 500 level to satisfy electives for the master's in Film and Media Studies. In choosing electives, students may select any 400- or 500-level Film and Media course not used for Area I. In addition, they can select up to 6 hours in Film 500 Independent Study that is in a study area of film and media not ordinarily covered by regular course offerings. Any Film 500 must be approved by the DGS. Six hours of courses at the 400 or 500 level offered through other departments or programs that are relevant to the degree's intellectual focus may also be taken to satisfy this area with the permission of the DGS.
Area III: Practicum in Film and Media Studies

Students must complete one course (3 credits) that consists of professional experience that brings to bear academic knowledge and skills associated with the study of Film and Media Studies. Every student presents a written proposal/plan to the DGS and to the faculty mentor/advisee they select for their practicum. Both faculty must give permission to the plan.

The practicum may take a number of forms, but in every case, the experience must be planned in a way that contributes to the student's professional development. It might consist of work curating films for a screening or mini-festival accompanied by screening notes, a website, or other forms of writing that enhance the academic value of the event. The student might organize a scholarly symposium or lecture to further the understanding of a particular aspect of the moving image at Washington University. The practicum may also consist of archival or curatorial work in film, television or other forms of the moving image (such as digital art) at an archive, museum, or other nonprofit organization (such as a film festival), in which the student will have an on-site supervisor.

Students interested in combining primary research with their development as a "public intellectual" might write a book proposal and develop a bibliography in anticipation of writing a book or they may develop a website with consistent and significant critical, historical or theoretical usefulness to those interested in film and media studies, such as one that offers critical analyses of current films, bibliographic information addressing one area of research in the field, etc. The practicum student might participate in other activities related to moving image exhibition or archival preservation or to grant application writing. The practicum may also be oriented toward teaching, with the creation of a course syllabus and sample lectures delivered by the graduate student in a venue organized by faculty.

Students may initiate other projects, but any practicum requires a faculty mentor and, in circumstances in which there is a collaborating organization, a letter of endorsement of the practicum from the student's on-site supervisor at the organization. This supervisor will also provide a letter upon completion of the practicum detailing the student's work and its quality. The faculty adviser will award the grade for the practicum.