



CONNECTICUT  
COLLEGE

## Richard Abate '10

*Film Studies, English*



### How did you choose your major?

When I came to college I had no idea what I wanted to major in, so I used my freshman year to try out

things that interested me. I took the class "How to Read a Film" during my first semester and loved it. I ended up taking a few more courses and I was hooked.

### What are your relationships like with your professors?

I don't think I could ask anything more of my professors. They've been amazing! All of my professors are interested in establishing a personal relationship with their students in some form or fashion. This type of connection makes class more valuable, because you feel like you have a connection with the person who is helping you to learn.

### What was your favorite class?

Studies in film culture was the best class that I've taken so far. We studied everything from Hollywood blockbusters to some of the first silent films ever shown. We even discussed film etiquette and what the theater itself represents. The course really gave me a good idea of how much material there is to explore within film studies.

### Have you done any research projects?

I'm hoping to do some more research projects during my senior year. I'd love to write something on the recent surge of comic book movies and their popularity. It's pretty fascinating.



# Film Studies

## Overview

The film program at Connecticut College approaches the study of moving images in a unique and comprehensive manner. The program, which integrates theory with practice and combines film scholarship with creative work in film production, is designed to educate students in the language of moving images while firmly framing the study within the traditions and goals of the liberal arts.

As a budding film scholar, you will be asked to critically analyze the moving image in many forms, such as documentary, Hollywood and national cinema, avant-garde and experimental film, and television. The program also places considerable emphasis on production classes, which are designed to give you the technical training and stylistic devices to author your own creative projects.

## Interdisciplinary Studies

Film scholarship and filmmaking are inherently interdisciplinary specializations, and the program encourages you to combine your interest in film with any of the disciplines at the College. You may choose to combine your study of film with a self-designed interdisciplinary major, which allows you to seamlessly join film studies with another area of study, or to develop a very specific focus. In the past students have created majors that frame film studies through the lenses of dance, literary adaptation, theater, social movements and politics. Some students even choose to earn a certificate from one of the College's interdisciplinary programs such as arts and technology or international studies.

## Study Away

Film studies majors and minors may study away for a semester or a year on College-approved programs. The department has found that study-away experiences are an integral and vital component of a film studies student's education. In fact, many of the most successful productions at the College have been inspired by a student's experience and observations studying abroad in countries such as India, Spain and Costa Rica.

## Equipment and Production Facilities

All of our production courses are taught with portable digital video equipment, with students working on projects alone or in groups of two. This individual approach allows students to experience and understand all of the elements of the creative process. Because of this approach, students have unlimited access to a variety of HDV production equipment, such as eight camera kits, which include Canon XH-A1 three-chip HDV camcorders, Sennheiser and Audio-Technica

microphones, and Bogen tripods. We also have four Lowell light kits available for checkout.

Our editing lab is accessible 24 hours a day and is reserved for students currently enrolled in production classes or approved for independent studies. The lab includes five DV nonlinear editing workstations, based on Macintosh Intel iMac computers and Final Cut Studio 2 software. A new “Annex” lab space includes two additional HDV Final Cut Studio workstations, a sound recording/voiceover station with ProTools software and equipment to transfer 16mm film to video.

## Faculty

**Nina K. Martin**, *Assistant Professor of Theater and Film Studies, Director of Film Studies Program*

Ph.D., Northwestern University;  
M.A., New York University; B.S., Ithaca College  
Feminist film and cultural studies; the impact of film and TV on feminist discourses

**P. James McFarland**, *Assistant Professor of German Studies*

Ph.D., Princeton University; B.A., Oberlin College

Film theory; 19th-century German philosophy; Weimar Republic modernism

**David Tetzlaff**, *Associate Professor of Theater*

Ph.D., University of Iowa; M.A., University of Wisconsin; B.S., University of Minnesota  
Moving picture production; cultural studies; postmodernism

*\*Please note: the department is in the process of conducting a faculty search. For an updated list of faculty, please consult the online version of the major brochure, available in April 2009.*

## Selected Courses

Introduction to Film Studies—How to Read a Film; Studies in Film Culture; Screenwriting; Fundamentals of Motion Picture Production; Advanced Production Workshop; The Films of Alfred Hitchcock; Postcolonial Literatures and Theory—West African Literature and Film; Philosophy and Film; Contemporary Spanish Cinema: Before and After Almodóvar; Representing Gender; Women Directors; Animation

## About Connecticut College

Connecticut College is a highly selective residential liberal arts college with 1,900 students from all over the country and the world. The academic program offers more than 50 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities as well as innovative interdisciplinary programs. Students engage with dedicated faculty and each other to create a vibrant social, cultural and intellectual community in which learning is valued for its own sake — and individuals' diverse perspectives enrich the experience of all.

## What can you do with a major in film studies?

### Winslow Porter '05

Film Studies

Attends the interactive technology program at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. Concentrating efforts on creating toys that will help young children make their own home movies.

Has worked on biopic documentaries in Palo Alto, Calif., as a photographic assistant in New York City and on two music videos for the Grammy Award-nominated Brazilian Girls.

### David Kahn '06

Film, South Asian Studies (self-designed)

Co-founder of a Boston-based video production company called eCastVideo. Specializes in producing Web videos and DVDs for corporate customers such as Harvard Business School, GlaxoSmith-Kline and the city of Stamford, Conn.

Spent a semester studying in Mysore, India. Returned to India the following year and spent three weeks in Mumbai filming The Bombay Project, which received the College's Oakes and Louise Ames Prize for the most outstanding honors thesis.

### Wilson Stiner '08

Film Studies, Spanish Culture

Works in Los Angeles for various companies and independent producers as a director, writer, editor and director of photography, and in production and sound. Has also worked in film, design and music in Washington, D.C.

While abroad in Spain, directed, photographed and produced a film which has won awards on the festival circuit.

For more information, visit  
[www.conncoll.edu/academics/](http://www.conncoll.edu/academics/)