Film Studies

Overview
Major in film studies at Connecticut College and you learn theory and scholarship, gain practical film production skills and produce your own creative work. As a budding film scholar, you are asked to critically analyze the moving image in many forms, including documentary, Hollywood and national cinema, avant-garde and experimental film, and television. Production classes will give you the technical training and stylistic devices to author your own creative projects. It is a unique and comprehensive approach to the field.

Special Opportunities
Students often combine their interest in film studies with another discipline. You can also create a self-designed major with a focus of your choosing. Recent students have framed film studies through the lenses of dance, literary adaptation, theater, social movements and politics. Some students also earn a certificate from one of the College’s academic centers in areas such as arts and technology or international studies. We encourage you to study abroad for a semester or a year. Many of the most successful productions at the College have been inspired by students’ experiences and observations studying in countries such as India, Spain and Costa Rica.

Facilities
Our production courses use HD video equipment. While enrolled in upper-level production courses, you have access to an array of professional cinema lights, a professional dolly with track, a 12-foot crane, Glidecams and shoulder-mount rigs, advanced audio kits and 16mm film cameras. Editing labs are accessible 24/7. We have 10 iMacs with Final Cut Pro and various audio recording/mixing software.

Q: Why Connecticut College?
A: When I visited campus, I was struck by the small classes and the individual attention paid to students. I thought Connecticut College would be a place where I could grow both as a student and person. I was drawn by the liberal arts curriculum and the commitment to fostering intellectual curiosity.

Q: What drew you to film studies?
A: In my first semester, I took “Introduction to Film: How to Read a Film.” In a discussion on the film “Memento” (Christopher Nolan, 2000), we began theorizing the way memory and psychology connected to the film’s narrative structure. I thought, “This is so cool!” I also realized I wanted to study a discipline that would allow me to incorporate ideas from a variety of subjects.

Q: What role has CELS played in your experience at Connecticut College?
A: CELS equipped me with practical job-search skills and instilled a sense of confidence in me as I go out into the market. My CELS adviser has been such a fantastic resource. Through her help, I was able to intern at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. I helped organize monthly film festivals for museum visitors there.
Faculty

Nina K. Martin, Assistant Professor of Film Studies; Director of Film Studies Program
B.S., Ithaca College; M.A., New York University; Ph.D., Northwestern University
Feminist film and cultural studies; the impact of film and TV on feminist discourses

Elizabeth Reich, Assistant Professor of Film Studies
B.A., Barnard College; M.A. Columbia University; Ph.D., Rutgers University
Film and new media studies; black cinema; race and cinema; Afrofuturism; African American studies; psychoanalysis; cultural studies

Ross W. Morin, Assistant Professor of Film Studies
B.A., Connecticut College; M.F.A., Ohio University
Motion picture production; video production; film editing; directing; history of the documentary; cinematography

Selected Courses
Introduction to Film Studies: How to Read a Film; Studies in Film Culture; Screenwriting; Animation; Documentary Theory and Production; Ideological Representation in Motion Picture Production; Fundamentals of Motion Picture Production; Advanced Production Workshop; Philosophy and Film; Representing Gender; Studies in Authorship: Women Directors; Animation; The Holocaust in Film and Literature; Studies in Authorship: Women Directors; Death and Desire: The Invention of Horror in Early German Cinema; Studies in Cult and Camp

About Connecticut College
Connecticut College is a private, highly selective liberal arts college with 1,850 students and more than 40 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities, as well as the option for students to self-design majors. The College offers a high level of intellectual challenge, a campus culture that supports students to tailor their educational experience to their own interests and goals, and a four-year career development program that teaches students how to translate a liberal arts degree into a first job or graduate school admission. Connecticut College is situated in the small New England seaport of New London.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A MAJOR IN FILM STUDIES?

CEO/ Executive Producer/ Cinematographer, Fine Films Inc.
Casting Assistant, Grant Wiffley Casting Inc.
Assistant, William Morris Endeavor Entertainment
Junior Manager, Gilbertson Entertainment
Production and Editorial Assistant, Post Millennium
Creative Director, Ecast Video
Director of Operations, Black Ocean
Assistant to Director, 20th Century Fox Television
Designer, TJX
Film Editor, JWM Productions
Program Planning Coordinator, VH1
Television Show Host, mtvU
Portrait Photographer, Image 1 Studios
Marketing Assistant, Columbia Records/Sony Music Entertainment
Development Assistant, Leftfield Pictures
Assistant Floor Manager, Fine Films Inc.

EXAMPLE OF STUDENT RESEARCH IN FILM STUDIES

Dan White ’14
Audio games: a suite of four for visually impaired players

Shannon Keating ’13
Creative writing across mediums: portfolio and authorial process

Matthew Gentile ’12
‘Heart to Heart,’ a short film using computer animation and live action

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