

Film and Media

College of Letters and Science (<http://ls.berkeley.edu>)

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Overview

The Department of Film & Media at UC Berkeley offers an interdisciplinary program leading to a BA in Film, a PhD in Film and Media, and a Designated Emphasis in Film Studies for doctoral students located in other departments. This program engages with all forms of moving-image culture, exploring the most popular media forms of the last century (film and still photography) and the most exciting new media form of the new century (digital media). It teaches students to think historically, theoretically and analytically about a wide range of images within the broad context of humanistic studies. Production opportunities in digital media are available to students who have demonstrated excellence in theory, history and analysis.

Major

Berkeley offers an interdisciplinary undergraduate program leading to a BA in Film. The program offers rigorous engagement with the entire culture of moving-images, teaching students to think historically, theoretically and analytically about a wide range of cinematic forms. At the same time, it encourages students to look at moving-images from the vantage point of other disciplines. To this end, the Film and Media department cooperates with a number of other departments and programs on campus. Students earning their BA in Film may also choose to complement their study of the history and theory of moving images with the hands-on experience provided by production classes.

To Declare the Film Major

Film 25A or 25B must be completed. In addition, the student must be progressing in the chosen languages.

Lower Division Requirements

History of Film

Two courses, one on film from its beginnings, covering the silent period and the conversion to sound (to 1930) [Film 25A], and the other on the classical period through the New Wave and the emergence of new ethnic and national cinemas (1930-1971) [Film 25B].

Film majors have two options for completing their language requirement:

1. Students may complete the third semester of a college-level language course in a single language (e.g., French 3); or
2. Students may choose to complete the second semester of a college-level language course in two different languages (e.g., German 2 and Swahili 2). (If a student has taken three or more years of a language in high school, that language can count as one of the two

languages. In that case students need only complete the second semester of one additional language.)

Language courses that are strictly conversational are not acceptable. Students may enroll in the courses being used to satisfy the film language requirement on a passed/not passed basis. Students should be aware that if they are also using the course to satisfy the L&S foreign language requirement, it must be taken on a letter-graded basis. Any natural language is acceptable. Students who are native speakers of a language other than English may demonstrate their language competency by satisfactorily passing a language proficiency exam administered by a language department at Berkeley, or by taking an advanced course in the language (such as an upper division course which is taught in the language). Students are expected to demonstrate both verbal and written proficiency.

Upper Division Requirements (32 units of upper division credit are required)

1. **Film Theory:** History of film theory (Film 100)
2. **Documentary Film:** Analysis of the development of the documentary film (Film 128)
3. **Avant-Garde Film:** A survey of the history and aesthetics of avant-garde film (Film 129).

Plus one of the following:

1. **Genre:** Focus on a particular genre, e.g., western, horror, noir (Film 108); or
2. **Auteur:** Focus on an individual or several related auteurs, e.g., Griffith, Lang, Fellini (Film 151); or
3. **National Cinema:** Focus on the cinema of a particular nation or region (Film 160).

Film Electives

16 units are required to complete the major requirements of 32 upper division units. Please check with the department office for approved courses.

Students may choose to take additional courses from the upper division Film and Media offerings, including Film 108 (Genre), Film 140 (Special Topics), Film 151 (Auteur), Film 160 (National Cinema), Film 180A and 180B (Screenwriting), Film C185 (Digital Video), Film 186 (Special Topics in Moving Image Production), Film C187 (Advanced Digital Video). Approved film elective courses drawn from course offerings across the campus may also be used. Students should consult with the Undergraduate Adviser to obtain a list of approved courses. The list changes each semester.

Honors Program

To be eligible for admission to the honors program in Film, a student must have attained senior standing with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.3 or higher on all University work and a 3.5 GPA or higher in courses in the major. The levels of honors are as follows: Honors, High Honors, and Highest Honors. Students in the honors program are to take Film H195 for a letter grade to complete a senior honors thesis. Although the production of a film may be part of the preparation of the thesis and the film submitted as a documentation or example, it is expected that the thesis will be a substantial piece of writing on film criticism or film history.

Graduate Program

PhD in Film and Media

Students in the Film and Media PhD are encouraged to situate moving images within the larger theoretical and analytical frameworks of a range of other disciplines. They integrate the traditions of history, law, literature, religion and political theory to the newer disciplines of Film Studies and Digital Media, applying the tools of post-structuralism, psychoanalysis, new historicism, Frankfurt School, feminist theory, queer theory, post-colonialism and deconstruction. Many combine their degree study with a campus Designated Emphasis (graduate “minor”) in New Media, in Critical Theory, or in Women, Gender and Sexuality.

For information regarding program requirements, please see the department's website (<http://fm.berkeley.edu/graduate>) .

Designated Emphasis in Film Studies

PhD students at Berkeley may add a Designated Emphasis in Film Studies to their major fields. The designated emphasis provides curricular and research resources for students who want to concentrate on film within their respective disciplines and have their work formally recognized. Designed to bring together faculty and students from different departments, the program provides a unique context for rigorous cross-disciplinary thinking and promotes innovative research in the theory and history of cinema.

Applicants must be enrolled in a doctoral program at Berkeley and must have completed the film theory seminar (Film Studies 200), offered each fall semester.

Students admitted to the designated emphasis program must complete the following requirements: a minimum of three graduate seminars in film studies taken at Berkeley; Film Studies 200, Film Studies 201, Film Studies 240, or a graduate seminar cross-listed with Film Studies 240. *Note:* Independent study courses may not be used to fulfill this requirement.

A member of the Graduate Group in Film Studies must be an unofficial member of the PhD oral qualifying examination committee. The dissertation must contribute to the study of film.

FILM R1A The Craft of Writing - Film Focus 4 Units

Department: Film and Media

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall and summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of lecture/discussion per week, plus individual conferences. 7.5 hours of lecture/discussion per week, plus individual conferences.

Rhetorical approach to reading and writing argumentative discourse with a film focus. Close reading of selected texts; written themes developed from class discussion and analysis of rhetorical strategies. Satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement.

Satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement
Formerly known as Rhetoric R5A.

FILM R1B The Craft of Writing - Film Focus 4 Units

Department: Film and Media

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Spring and summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of lecture/discussion per week, plus individual conferences. 7.5 hours of lecture/discussion per week, plus individual conferences.

Intensive argumentative writing stimulated through selected readings, films, and class discussion. Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement.

Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement
Formerly known as Rhetoric R5B.

FILM 25A The History of Film 4 Units

Department: Film and Media

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall and summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of Lecture and 3 to 4 hours of Laboratory per week for 15 weeks. 6 hours of Lecture and 3 hours of Discussion per week for 8 weeks. 7.5 hours of Lecture and 3 hours of Discussion per week for 6 weeks.

From the beginnings through the conversion to sound. In addition to the development of the silent film, the course will conclude with an examination of the technology of sound conversion and examples of early sound experiments.

FILM 25B The History of Film 4 Units

Department: Film and Media

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Spring and summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of Lecture and 3 to 4 hours of Laboratory per week for 15 weeks. 6 hours of Lecture and 3 hours of Discussion per week for 8 weeks. 7.5 hours of Lecture and 3 hours of Discussion per week for 6 weeks.

Prerequisites: 25A or equivalent.

The sound era through 1971.

FILM 26 Moving Image Media 4 Units

Department: Film and Media

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall and spring

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 2 hours of Lecture and 2 to 4 hours of Laboratory per week for 15 weeks.

Prerequisites: 25A.

The objective of this class is to provide a basic technical foundation for digital video film production while emphasizing the techniques and languages of creative moving image media from traditional story genres to more contemporary experimental forms. Training will move from pre-