People have been making, watching and writing about movies for just over a century. In a culture that increasingly relies on visual information, an understanding of the moving image is essential to understanding society.

Film Studies at the University of Sydney is a vibrant interdisciplinary program that develops this critical visual literacy. It equips students with a range of skills for understanding the social, cultural, aesthetic and political dimensions of cinema in different contexts and at different times and analysing cinema as a vital and yet everyday part of modern life.

Our program combines a broad range of Units of Study from across the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences disciplines of Art History, English, Australian Literature, Digital Cultures, French, German, History, International and Contemporary Literary Studies, Italian, Japanese, Philosophy, Religion and Spanish. It also includes Units of Study from Sydney College of Arts and The Conservatorium.

Film can be studied at undergraduate level as a major within a degree, or single units of study can be taken as electives to complement other study in your degree. Students can also choose to continue on to undertake research at Honours and Postgraduate Research degree level.

Film Studies at Sydney University offers a most diverse and comprehensive approach to the study of film and film culture.
Film Studies Major

How should I plan my enrolment in Film Studies?

The Film Studies major is a well-designed balance of compulsory structure and guided student choice.

Compulsory Units

To major in Film Studies, students will need to complete the units of study listed below. Each unit of study is worth 6 credit points.

18 junior credit points including:
- ENGL1011 Introduction to Film Studies (1000 level)

36 senior credit points including:
- ARHT2656 Film Genres and National Cinemas (2000 level)
- ARHT3601 Cinematic Transformations (3000 level)
- A minimum of two units of study from the list of core units
- A maximum of two units of study from the list of elective units

Elective units of study can be replaced with core units.

Students can undertake an extra four units of study in addition to those required for the major from either the elective or core lists.

Core Units

ARHT2652 From Silent to Sound Cinema
ARHT2653 Memory of the World
ARHT2655 Modern Cinema: Modes of Viewing
ARHT2657 Contemporary Hollywood
ASNS3616 Japanese Cinema
ENGL2627 Screening Sexuality
ENGL2638 Literature and Cinema
ENGL3604 Cinematic Modernism
HSTY2608 European Film and History
ICLS2637 Watching Stars: Film and the Star System
MUSC2663 Survey of Film Music

Elective Units

ARIN2630 Digital Arts
ARHT2632 Modern Australian Art and Cinema
ASLT2616 Australian Stage and Screen
CAEL2039 Screen Arts: An Introduction
ENGL2617 Postmodernism
ENGL3616 Reading Contemporary America
EUST2020 Screening Europe: After 1989
FRNC2681 French Narrative Cinema
FRNC3690 French Political Cinema
GRMN2633 Topics in German Film
ITLN3679 Filming Fiction: The Italian Experience
MUSC2664 Popular Music and the Moving Image
PHIL2658 Philosophy in Film
RLST2628 Religion and Film
SPAN2641 Filmmaking in the Latin American Context

Note: not every unit is offered every year. For a full list of 2016 units go to: http://sydney.edu.au/arts/film

For more information

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