

# Cinema and Media Studies

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Department Website: <http://cms.uchicago.edu>  
Program of Study

For more than a century, and across widely different cultures, film has been a primary medium for storytelling; it has served to depict and explore the world, to engage and shape the human senses and emotions, memory, and imagination. We live in a time in which the theatrical exhibition of films to a paying public is no longer the primary venue in which motion pictures are consumed. But cinema seems to survive, even as it is being transformed by television, video, and digital media; these media, in turn, are giving rise to new forms of moving image culture.

The major in Cinema and Media Studies provides a framework within which students can approach the history of film and related media from a variety of historical, critical, and theoretical perspectives. Focusing on the study of the moving image, as well as sound, the program enables students to analyze how cinema creates meanings through particular forms, techniques, and styles; how industrial organization affects the way films are produced and received; and how the social context in which they are made and circulated influences our understanding of the medium.

At the same time, the goal is to situate the cinema and related media in broader contexts: modernity, modernism, and the avant-garde; narrative theory, poetics, and rhetoric; commercial entertainment forms and consumer culture; sexuality and gender; constructions of ethnic, racial, and national identities; and international media production and circulation.

Students graduating with a Cinema and Media Studies major will be trained in critical, formal, theoretical, and historical thinking and analysis. The program thus fosters discussion and writing skills. Students will gain the tools to approach film history as well as today's media environment within specific cultural contexts and broad transnational perspectives.

Students wishing to enter the program should consult with the Director of Undergraduate Studies no later than Spring Quarter of their second year. Participation in the program must be declared to the Director of Undergraduate Studies before registration.

## Program Requirements

The major consists of twelve courses (four required courses and eight elective courses) and a BA research paper.

## Required Courses

The following five courses are required:

CMST 10100 Introduction to Film Analysis: This course provides an introduction to the basic concepts of film analysis. It should be completed before other Cinema and Media Studies courses; it must be completed before other required courses. It should be completed as early as possible; it must be completed by the end of the third year.

History of International Cinema sequence CMST 28500 and 28600: This required two-quarter sequence covers the silent era (CMST 28500 History of International Cinema I: Silent Era) and the sound era to 1960 (CMST 28600 History of International Cinema II: Sound Era to 1960), as well as major characteristics and developments of each. It is typically taught in Autumn and Winter Quarters. It should be completed by the end of the third year.

CMST 29800 Senior Colloquium: In Autumn Quarter of their fourth year, students must participate in a Senior Colloquium that helps them conceptualize their BA research paper and address more advanced questions of methodology and theory. There are additional stipulations for those pursuing a Creative BA; see BA Research Paper for details.

CMST 29900 BA Research Paper: Students are required to register for CMST 29900 BA Research Paper during the term in which they plan to graduate from the College. CMST 29900 BA Research Paper is a zero-unit course, but enrollment ensures that a thesis grade will appear on the student's transcript.

## Elective Courses

Of the eight remaining courses, five must either originate in or be cross-listed with Cinema and Media Studies. Students must receive prior approval of the five courses that they choose, and they are encouraged to consider broad survey courses as well as those with more focused topics (e.g., courses devoted to a single genre, director, or national cinema). Members of the affiliated faculty often teach courses that meet requirements for the three elective courses; students are encouraged to consult with them when making their selections. A course agreement form to be signed by the Director of Undergraduate Studies by fourth week of Autumn Quarter of the student's third year is available on the CMS website at [cms.uchicago.edu](http://cms.uchicago.edu).

Although the other three courses may be taken outside Cinema and Media Studies, students must demonstrate their relevance to the study of cinema. For example, a group of courses could focus on: traditional disciplines (e.g., history, anthropology/ethnography, philosophy, psychology, linguistics, sociology, political economy); subfields within area studies (e.g., East Asian, South Asian, African American, Jewish studies); art forms and media other than film, photography, and video (e.g., art history, architecture, literature, theater, opera, dance); or cross-disciplinary topics or sets of problems (e.g., the urban environment, violence and pornography, censorship, copyright and industry regulation, concepts of the public sphere, globalization). A form listing and explaining the choice of outside electives must be submitted to the Director of

Undergraduate Studies by fourth week of Winter Quarter of the student's third year is available on the CMS website at [cms.uchicago.edu](http://cms.uchicago.edu).

Note: CMS majors may not enroll in CMST 14400 Film and the Moving Image or any of the CMST 14500-14599 courses.

### BA Research Paper

Before seventh week of Spring Quarter of their third year, students meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies to discuss the focus of their required BA project. Students begin reading and research during the summer. Students must enroll in CMST 29800 Senior Colloquium during the Autumn Quarter of their fourth year. By the end of fourth week of that term, students select a project adviser and prepare to present an outline of their project to the Senior Colloquium. Writing and revising take place during Winter Quarter. All students are required to register for the zero-unit course CMST 29900 BA Research Paper during the term in which they plan to graduate from the College. The final version is due by fourth week of that quarter.

The BA research paper typically consists of a substantial essay that engages a research topic in the history, theory, and criticism of film and/or other media.

**Creative BA Option:** A creative project in film or video production supplemented by an essay is sometimes an option, contingent on the approval of the faculty. To be considered for this option, the student will submit a written proposal to the Director of Undergraduate Studies by the seventh week of Spring Quarter of the third year. Priority will be given to students who have completed three production classes (two must originate in CMST) by the end of Autumn Quarter of their fourth year.

In addition to enrollment in CMST 29800 Senior Colloquium during the Autumn Quarter of the fourth year, students who supplement their BA thesis project with film or video work are required to enroll in the CMST 23904 Senior Creative Thesis Workshop during the Winter Quarter of their fourth year. CMST 23904 may not be counted toward distribution requirements for the major; it will serve as general elective credit only. All students are required to register for the zero-unit course CMST 29900 BA Research Paper during the term in which they plan to graduate from the College.

### Summary of Requirements

CMST 10100	Introduction to Film Analysis	100
CMST 28500-28600	History of International Cinema I-II	200
CMST 29800	Senior Colloquium §	100
5 elective courses in Cinema and Media Studies (courses originating in or cross listed with Cinema and Media Studies)*		500
3 elective courses (courses originating in Cinema and Media Studies or elsewhere that are relevant to the study of cinema)**		300
CMST 29900	BA Research Paper †	000
Total Units		1200

§ Students with permission to pursue a Creative BA Project are required to enroll in CMST 23904 Senior Creative Thesis Workshop during Winter Quarter of their fourth year. However, this course will not count toward major requirements.

\* A course agreement form to be signed by the Director of Undergraduate Studies by fourth week of Autumn Quarter of a student's third year is required to obtain approval of these courses.

\*\* A form to be signed by the Director of Undergraduate Studies by fourth week of Winter Quarter of a student's third year is required to obtain approval of these courses.

† Students are required to register for CMST 29900 BA Research Paper, although it carries no course credit. Students must register for CMST 29900 during the term in which they graduate from the College.

### Grading

Students majoring in Cinema and Media Studies must receive a quality grade in all courses required for the major. With prior consent of instructor, non-majors may take Cinema and Media Studies courses for P/F grading.

### Honors

Students who have earned an overall GPA of 3.25 or higher and a major GPA of 3.5 or higher are eligible for honors. To receive honors, students must also write a BA research paper that shows exceptional intellectual and/or creative merit in the judgment of the first and the second readers, the Director of Undergraduate Studies, and the Master of the Humanities Collegiate Division.

### Advising

A course agreement form to be signed by the Director of Undergraduate Studies by fourth week of Autumn Quarter of the student's third year is required to obtain approval of the five elective courses that must either originate in or be cross listed with Cinema and Media Studies. A form to be signed by the Director of Undergraduate Studies by fourth week of

Winter Quarter of the student's fourth year is required to obtain approval of the three additional elective courses. Both forms are available on the CMS website at [cms.uchicago.edu](http://cms.uchicago.edu).

### Minor Program in Cinema and Media Studies

The minor in Cinema and Media Studies requires the completion of six courses:

CMST 10100	Introduction to Film Analysis	100
CMST 28500-28600	History of International Cinema I-II	200
Three courses numbered 20000 or above		300
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Total Units		600

Students are encouraged to take CMST 10100 Introduction to Film Analysis early in their undergraduate career, or at the beginning of their minor course of study. It must be taken no later than Spring Quarter of a student's third year.

Students who elect the minor program in Cinema and Media Studies must meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies before the end of the Winter Quarter of their third year to declare their intention to complete the minor and to select courses. The Director's approval of the minor program should be submitted to a student's College adviser no later than the end of Spring Quarter of a student's third year. Approval forms are obtained from the Director of Undergraduate Studies, the department website, or the College adviser.

Courses in the minor (1) may not be double-counted with the student's major(s) or with other minors; and (2) may not be counted toward general education requirements. All classes toward the minor must be taken for quality grades, and more than half of the requirements for the minor must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

### Sample Minor Program in Cinema and Media Studies

CMST 10100	Introduction to Film Analysis	100
CMST 28500	History of International Cinema I: Silent Era	100
CMST 28600	History of International Cinema II: Sound Era to 1960	100
and		
CMST 23404	French Cinema of the '20s and '30s	100
CMST 24701	Left-Wing Art and Soviet Film Culture of the 1920s	100
CMST 25201	Cinema and the First Avant-Garde, 1890-1933	100

*For the most up-to-date listing of Cinema and Media Studies courses, please visit the Courses page on the Cinema and Media Studies website, at [cms.uchicago.edu/courses](http://cms.uchicago.edu/courses).*





### Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Times was used instead of Trajan.

Times was used instead of Palatino.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.