

# DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE, FILM, AND MEDIA ARTS

## GRADUATE INTERDISCIPLINARY SPECIALIZATION IN FILM STUDIES

The curriculum for the Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Film Studies requires 12 Hours spread over 4 courses, subject to approval.

1. At least 9 hours must be from the Approved Course List.
2. At least 9 hours must be taken outside the student's home degree program/department.
3. At least 6 hours must be taken at the 7000 level or above.

For the GIS, only 3 credit hours may be taken with an upper-level, intensive film course that does NOT appear on the list – prior approval is required. To verify whether an upper-level film course would be accepted for use toward the GIS, please contact Program Coordinator at [piper.92@osu.edu](mailto:piper.92@osu.edu) in advance of enrollment.

Full requirements and information about the GIS in Film are available at- [go.osu.edu/FS-GIS](http://go.osu.edu/FS-GIS)

## Courses available Spring 2025

### GIS approved course offerings from Master/Supplemental lists (7000-level+)

#### ENGLISH 7878 Seminar in Film and Media “Foreground and Background”

- *Spring 2025: Prof. Jesse Schotter:*
- This course will examine one of the most under-theorized aspects of film form: the relationship between foreground and background space. Starting from the earliest Lumiere brothers shorts, we'll explore how early cinema pioneers figured out how to subordinate background to foreground in the construction of narrative film. We'll then go on to examine some of the lingering associations with background space—from crime and deviance to the real to the repressed. We'll also analyze directors who seek alternative to the expected subordination of background space, either by flattening or by deepening the space of the image. Films may include shorts by Feuillade and Griffith, *Citizen Kane*, *Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*, *The Rules of the Game*, *Halloween*, *The Gleaners and I*, *Still Life*, *La Chinoise*, *Playtime*, *Children of Men*, *Son of Saul*, *The Zone of Interest*, and *The Headless Woman*.

#### FILMSTD 7001- Advanced Theory Seminar

- *Spring 2025: Prof. Amrutha Kunapulli*
- Film theory and methods seminar which focuses on a scholarly approach to cinema (auteurism, formalism, historicism, feminism, etc). Spring 2025 theme: “Cinema and Nationalism,” studying the relationship between cinema and the nation/nation-state as two co-occurrences of modernity.

### GIS approved course offerings from Master/Supplemental lists (4000-5000-6000 level)

#### ENGLISH 4578 – Special Topics in Film

- *Spring 2025: Prof. Sandra McPherson*
- Examination of topics, themes, genres, directors, periods, or movements in cinema. Topics vary by semester.

#### FILMSTD/GERMAN 4670H- Cinema and the Historical Avant-Garde

- *Spring 2025: Prof. John Davidson*
- Emergence and various instantiations of avant-garde filmmaking across the history of film. This course historicizes cinema's political and artistic roots, concentrating on the perceived and real possibilities of the medium, and fostering a critical awareness of "film culture" historically and currently.

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**Course offerings may change after publication of course booklet.** The most up-to-date information on class meeting times, course descriptions, pre-requisites, instructors, can be found on the BuckeyeLink

#### [Schedule of Classes](#)

Track your progress using the GIS audit form at: <https://theatreandfilm.osu.edu/filmstudies-gis>. Submit form to [Piper.92@osu.edu](mailto:Piper.92@osu.edu) to review and ensure all requirements are *in-progress* or have been *completed*. Final approvals are required the semester prior to graduation to meet the Graduate School application deadline.