Department of Cinema and Media Studies

Department Website: http://cms.uchicago.edu

Core Faculty

Department Chair - Daniel Morgan
Director of Graduate Studies
Director of Undergraduate Studies

Professors

- James Chandler
- Thomas Lamarre
- David Levin
- Daniel Morgan
- Richard Neer
- Jacqueline Stewart

Associate Professors

- Maria Belodubrovskaya
- Allyson Nadia Field
- Patrick Jagoda
- Kara Keeling
- Rochona Majumdar
- Jennifer Wild
- Salomé Skvirsky

Lecturers

- Marc Downie
- Thomas Comerford

Affiliated Faculty

- Ina Blom, Department of Art History
- James Conant, Department of Philosophy
- Anne Eakin Moss, Department of Slavic Languages and Literature
- Berthold Hoeckner, Department of Music
- Paola Iovene, East Asian Languages and Civilizations
- Loren Kruger, Department of English Language and Literature
- Laura Letinsky, Department of Visual Arts
- Constantine Nakassis, Department of Anthropology
- Robert Pippin, Department of Philosophy
- Malynne Sternstein, Department of Slavic Languages and Literature
- Catherine Sullivan, Department of Visual Arts

Emeritus Faculty

- Tom Gunning
- Yuri Tsivian
- Rebecca West

Staff

- Jane Bohnsack, Department Administrator
- Brianna Considine, Department Assistant

The Department of Cinema and Media Studies offers a PhD program that focuses on the history, theory, and criticism of film and related media. Faculty are drawn from a wide range of departments and disciplines, primarily in the humanities. In addition to offering its own doctoral degree, the department offers courses and
guidance to students who specialize in film and related media within other graduate programs or who pursue a joint degree.

Centering on the cinema, the graduate program provides students with the critical skills, research methods, and an understanding of the debates that have developed within cinema studies as a discrete discipline. At the same time, the study of cinema and related media mandates an interdisciplinary approach in a number of respects. The aesthetics of film is inextricably linked to the cultural, social, political, and economic configurations within which the cinema emerged and which it in turn has shaped. Likewise, the history of the cinema cannot be separated from its interaction with other media. Just as it is part of a wholly new culture of moving images and sounds that includes television, video, and digital technologies, the cinema draws on earlier practices of instantaneous photography and sound recording and, in a wider sense, those media that are more often described as the fine arts (painting, sculpture, architecture, literature, theater, and music). Finally, the interdisciplinary orientation of the program entails an emphasis on the diversity of film and media practices in different national and transnational contexts and periods and thus an understanding of the cinema as a historically variable and rich cultural form.

The Film Studies Center, located on the third floor of Cobb Hall, serves as a resource for course related and individual research and as a forum for cinema and media related activities.

THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Students are expected to complete seventeen courses during their course of study, of which a minimum of twelve have to be listed among the offerings of the Department of Cinema and Media Studies. Courses must be taken for a quality letter grade; pass/fail is not an option (with the acceptance of CMST 69900 Pedagogy).

1. Four (4) required courses originating in the department:
   - CMST 40000 Methods and Issues in Cinema Studies: an introduction to research methods, key concepts, and theoretical frameworks, using case studies to introduce students to debates and issues in the field; offered during Autumn Quarter each year.
   - CMST 48500 History of International Cinema I: Silent Era, and CMST 48600 History of International Cinema II: Sound Era to 1960: a two-quarter survey course that is designed as both a beginning-level graduate and an upper-level undergraduate course; offered in Autumn Quarter [Part I] and Winter Quarter [Part II] each year.
   - CMST 69900 Pedagogy: The Way We Teach Film: an introduction to pedagogical methods in the field of Cinema and Media Studies. This course takes place over the course of one (1) full academic year, meeting roughly three to four times per quarter; offered in alternating academic years for students in years 2 and year 3 of the PhD program.

2. Five (5) elective courses that either originate in or are cross-listed with the Department of Cinema and Media Studies. Only courses with a CMST cross-list can count towards this requirement, even if the course is taught by a CMS faculty member through another department. These courses should ideally fit into the overarching research goals of the student.

3. Three (3) advanced-level CMS seminars (600-level) - graduate seminars taught by CMS faculty are the only courses which receive a 600-level designation. CMST 69900: Pedagogy does not count towards the advanced course requirement.

4. Five (5) elective courses that can originate in other departments and may or may not cover cinema related subjects. Students should use this coursework requirement to work with faculty members outside of CMS and add interdisciplinary elements to their own scholarship.

Please note that language courses are not counted towards fulfilling coursework requirements.

STUDENTS WHO ENTER WITH AN MA

PhD students entering the department with a master’s degree from another institution (or from within the University of Chicago via the MAPH program) may request to be exempt from some coursework requirements. Such requests are handled on a case-by-case basis, but students may not receive a waiver for more than three (3) courses. Students must show the relevance of a course in the field of cinema studies in order to qualify for such an exemption. Courses should be graduate level only - undergraduate courses will not be acceptable. To request a coursework waiver, students should send an email to the DGS and include the syllabus for each course and transcripts showing the grade earned by the student. If a waiver is approved by the DGS, the student will be informed directly.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

Given the highly international nature of the field of cinema and media studies, students must demonstrate proficiency in two (2) modern foreign languages by earning High Passes (P+) on the University’s Foreign Language Reading Examinations. The first of these languages must be either French or German, and proficiency should be demonstrated by the end of Autumn Quarter in year 2 of the PhD program. The second language will be chosen in consultation with the DGS, and proficiency must be demonstrated before the student will be permitted to take their fields examinations.
Students may also fulfill language requirements by receiving an A or A- grade in a one-quarter graduate course - FREN 33333 or GRMN 33300 for example. Completion of the course with a grade of A or A- means the students does not need to take a language examination.

Students who are native-speakers of a language other than English should consult with the DGS during their first year in the program whether a waiver of a language requirement is possible.

**ORAL FIELDS EXAMINATIONS**

By the end of their third year in the program, students should have taken their Oral Field Examinations. All coursework and foreign language requirements must be completed prior to taking the oral fields examinations. The purpose of this examination is to ascertain a student’s readiness to proceed from advanced formal coursework to devising a dissertation project, and ensure that a student has sufficient command of several fields to teach and to generate new research projects. It is expected that student produce written exams that are argument-driven - one that draws on and is informed by each of their fields lists.

- The exam is comprised of five parts - three (3) written exams (one for each list), a syllabus for an undergraduate course of 10 weeks based on one or more field lists, and an oral exam. The essays are not meant to be a literature review or an exhaustive account of all of the material on the list.

The student will select an exam committee consisting of three faculty members in the relevant fields in consultation with the DGS, keeping in mind that two members of the exam committee must be CMS faculty.

**GRADUATE TEACHING - PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING PLAN (PTP)**

Teaching obligations are integral to preparing students for the world of professional academic, enabling students to begin teaching before starting professional careers. Teaching in the department, whether as a course assistant (CA) or Lecturer count towards fulfillment of the PTP. Teaching outside of the department to meet PTP expectations - especially to fulfill teaching obligations in a joint-degree program - must be approved by the DGS, and the department will anticipate a student completing their teaching commitments in CMS unless informed otherwise. The DGS might recommend deferring teaching commitments depending on a student’s academic standing in the program.

Students are expected to remain in good academic standing and continue making progress towards degree requirements. This support will include full tuition coverage, annual stipend, and fully paid individual annual premiums for UChicago's student health insurance.

Information on funding will be continually updated through the Humanities Division website in the Financial Aid section (http://humanities.uchicago.edu/students/financial-aid/). For information regarding fellowships outside of the standard admissions package, please visit the Internal Fellowship section (http://humanities.uchicago.edu/students/financial-aid/fellowships/internal-fellowships/) on the Humanities Division site.

**THE DISSERTATION PROPOSAL AND REACHING CANDIDACY**

In order to be admitted to candidacy, students must write a dissertation proposal under the supervision of their dissertation committee. Students are expected to reach candidacy in year 3 or 4, and must have reached candidacy by the start of year 6 (please check with Department Staff for specific details).

**DISSERTATION DEFENSE AND GRADUATION**

Upon completion of the dissertation, the student will defend it orally before the members of the dissertation committee, the Cinema and Media Studies faculty, and their colleagues in the PhD program. Once the dissertation is approved by the student’s committee, the student is eligible to graduate.

**THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS**

Students seeking master’s level study should apply to the Master of Arts Program in the Humanities (https://maph.uchicago.edu/) (MAPH); a three-quarter program of interdisciplinary study. Students build their own curriculum with graduate-level courses in any humanities department. Students choosing to focus in Cinema and Media Studies would take courses within the department and complete their thesis with a faculty advisor.

**GRADUATE COURSES IN CINEMA AND MEDIA STUDIES**

**CMST 31025. Creating a Different Image: Black Women’s Filmmaking of the 1970s-90s. 100 Units.**

This course will explore the rich intersections between African American women's filmmaking, literary production, and feminist thought from the 1970s to the early 1990s, with an emphasis on the formation of a Black
women's film culture beginning in the 1970s. We will examine the range of Black feminisms presented through film and the ways that these films have challenged, countered, and reimagined dominant narratives about race, class, gender, and sexuality in America.

Instructor(s): Allyson Field
Terms Offered: Winter

Note(s): Course Description Continued: We will explore the power and limitations of filmmaking as a mode of Black feminist activism; the range of Black feminisms presented through film; and the specific filmic engagements of well-known Black feminist critics such as bell hooks, Toni Cade Bambara, and Michele Wallace. As many Black feminist writers were engaged with filmmaking and film culture, we will look at these films alongside Black women's creative and critical writing from the period. Approaching filmmaking in the context of Black feminist thought will allow us to examine the possibilities of interdisciplinary approaches to film studies broadly, as well as to think specifically about the research methods and theories that are demanded by Black women's filmmaking in particular. We will discuss the form, aesthetics, and politics of individual films and we will examine larger efforts by artists and activists to build a Black women's film culture, asking such questions as: What does a film history of Black feminism look like, and what scholarly and creative methods does such a history demand? To begin to answer these questions, we will revisit the 1976 Sojourner Truth Festival of the Arts—believed to be the first ever Black women's film festival—organized by Michele Wallace, Faith Ringgold, Patricia Jones, Margo Jefferson, and Monica Freeman. The class will collectively participate in a homage series inspired by the 1976 festival, featuring work by filmmakers from the original festival such as Monica Freeman, Madeleine Anderson, Michelle Parkerson, Ayoka Chenzira, Carol Munden Lawrence, Edie Lynch, and Camille Billops; as well as others including Julie Dash, Zeinabu irene Davis, Maya Angelou, and Yvonne Welbon. The weekly course screenings will be open to the public and students will gain experience in the public presentation of films by actively engaging in public-facing aspects of film exhibition (writing program notes, delivering introductions, participating in discussions, etc.). The class will culminate with a two-day symposium that will bring together around 35 Black feminist filmmakers and artists, including a number from the 1976 festival, to revisit the threads and legacies of the original event and discuss the present and future of Black women's film practices. This course is open to graduate and undergraduate students from across the disciplines; our conversations and presentations of the films will both depend on and be energized by different disciplinary perspectives.

Equivalent Course(s): CRES 21025, HMRT 31025, HIST 37415, HMRT 21025, HIST 27415, GNSE 30128, CMST 21025, KNOW 31025, GNSE 20128

CMST 31703. Weimar Cinema. 100 Units.

German films between the end of World War I and the establishment of the Third Reich in 1933 are extraordinarily eclectic and intensely inventive, encompassing horror film, socially conscious dramas, expressionist fantasies, experimental documentary, early proto-fascist and anti-fascist films, and that ur-German invention, the mountain film. We will consider some of the most important works of the period, including films by Fritz Lang, Ernst Lubitsch, G.W. Pabst, F.W. Murnau, Arnold Fanck, Walter Ruttmann, and Josef von Sternberg, examining their context, style, reception, formal achievements and historical significance.

Instructor(s): David Levin
Terms Offered: Spring

CMST 32118. Nazi Cinema. 100 Units.

Nazi cinema. An examination of a broad range of films produced under the National Socialist regime, from mass spectacles to domestic melodramas, from comedies to hagiography to biopics to dramatized propaganda. Throughout we will seek to reassert the national, formal, and ideological particularity of these films and to trace their conceptual logic. What, we will ask, constitutes the National Socialist (film) aesthetic? Readings in film history and cultural theory. No prerequisites, but a commitment to close readings - of films and criticism - and lively, thoughtful engagement will be essential. In English. A German language discussion section may be added.

Instructor(s): David Levin
Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): GRMN 37710, GRMN 27710

CMST 32119. Richard Wagner's Ring of the Nibelung in Performance. 100 Units.

This seminar, open to undergraduates and beginning graduate students, serves as a critical introduction to and intensive exploration of Richard Wagner's 19th century tetralogy. In addition to critical readings (e.g., by Wagner, Adorno, Nietzsche, Badiou, Dahlhaus, et al.) and screenings of a host of productions, we will travel downtown to Lyric Opera to attend performances of the Ring cycle in David Pountney’s new production. Our discussions of the Chicago production will be supplemented by conversations with members of the Lyric Opera production team, including Anthony Freud, Lyric Opera’s General Director. No previous knowledge is required although a curiosity about opera, German culture, media history, and/or theater & performance studies will be essential.

Instructor(s): David Levin
Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): GRMN 22118, CMST 22118, GRMN 32118

CMST 33030. The Italian Cinematographic Comedy. 100 Units.

An important genre in Italian cinema is represented by the "commedia," in particular the declination "all'italiana." It is a very original form of representation of the world invented by Italian cinema. The comedy genre has marked many decades of Italian cinematography: from the plot comedies of the Fifties (going back until the Thirties) with films like ‘Due soldi di speranza’ (1952) by Renato Castellani, to the grotesque comedy of masks of the Sixties, with authors such as Dino Risi ("Il sorpasso," 1962, "I mostri," 1963), Mario Monicelli ("La Grande Guerra," 1959) and Pietro Germi ("Divorzio all'italiana," 1961, "Sedotta e abbandonata," 1964),
up to the dominance of the grotesque representation of the world, with authors such as Elio Petri ("Indagine su un cittadino al di sopra di ogni sospetto," 1972). The heritage of the commedia all’italiana can be found in contemporary Italian cinema, as for example with Nanni Moretti. Moretti’s cinema in fact summarizes the entire inheritance of Italian cinematographic modernity - starting from neorealism and up to comedy and author cinema - in one of the most effective ways. The Italian cinematographic comedy is also rooted in the Italian literary tradition, in the masks of “commedia dell’arte,” and generally speaking in the different aspects of grotesque tradition (as analyzed by Bachtin).

Instructor(s): Roberto De Gaetano
Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Open to undergraduates in their third or fourth year.
Note(s): Taught in English.
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 23030, ITAL 33020, ITAL 23020

CMST 33321. Bollywood Beats: Music and Sound in Popular Hindi Cinema. 100 Units.
This course explores the music and sound of popular Hindi cinema from aesthetic, social, cultural, economic, historical, and political perspectives. Students will be introduced to the musical conventions and practices of the genre, and to changes in Bollywood musical style over the course of the 20th and 21st centuries. We will watch select films with keen attention to music’s imbrication with cinematic visuality, narrative, technology, and dance, and with consideration of issues like emplacement, gender, caste, religion, capitalism, nationalism, and transnationalism. Bollywood is a cosmopolitan music, drawing from and contributing to a range of regional and international music practices; we also venture into some of those streams.

Instructor(s): Anna Schultz
Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): MUSI 33321, SALC 33321, CMST 23321, SALC 23321, MUSI 23321

CMST 33500. Pasolini. 100 Units.
This course examines each aspect of Pasolini’s artistic production according to the most recent literary and cultural theories, including Gender Studies. We shall analyze his poetry (in particular “Le Ceneri di Gramsci” and “Poesie informa di rosa”), some of his novels (“Ragazzi di vita,” “Una vita violenta,” “Teorema,” “Petrolio”), and his numerous essays on the relationship between standard Italian and dialects, semiotics and cinema, and the role of intellectuals in contemporary Western culture. We shall also discuss the following films: “Accattone,” “La ricotta,” “Edipo Re,” “Teorema,” and “Salo”.

Instructor(s): Armando Maggi
Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Taught in English.
Equivalent Course(s): FNDL 28401, GNSE 38600, ITAL 28400, GNSE 28600, CMST 23500, ITAL 38400

CMST 33701. The Cinema of Jean Renoir. 100 Units.
TBD
Equivalent Course(s): FREN 23712, FREN 33712, FNDL 23901, FNDL 33901, CMST 23701

CMST 33930. Documentary Production I. 100 Units.
Documentary Video Production focuses on the making of independent documentary video. Examples of various modes of documentary production will be screened and discussed. Issues embedded in the genre, such as the ethics, the politics of representation, and the shifting lines between the real and fiction will be explored. Story development, pre-production strategies, and production techniques will be our focus, in particular-research, relationships, the camera, interviews and sound recording, shooting in available light, working in crews, and post-production editing. Students will work in crews and be expected to purchase a portable hard drive. A five-minute string-out/rough-cut will be screened at the end of the quarter. Students are strongly encouraged to take Doc Production 2 to complete their work.
Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Prior or concurrent enrollment in CMST 10100 recommended for undergraduate students.
Equivalent Course(s): CHST 23930, ARTV 23930, HMRT 25106, HMRT 35106, MAAD 23930, CMST 23930, ARTV 33930

CMST 33931. Documentary Production II. 100 Units.
Documentary Video Production II focuses on the shaping and crafting of a non-Fiction video. Enrollment will be limited to those students who have taken Documentary Production I. The class will discuss issues of ethics, power, and representation in this most philosophical and problematic of genres. Students will be expected to write a treatment outline detailing their project and learn about granting agencies and budgeting. Production techniques will concentrate on the language of handheld camera versus tripod, interview methodologies, microphone placement including working with wireless systems and mixers, and lighting for the interview. Post-production will cover editing techniques including color correction and audio sweetening, how to prepare for exhibition, and distribution strategies.
Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): CMST 23930, HMRT 25106, or ARTV 23930
Equivalent Course(s): MAAD 23931, HMRT 35107, ARTV 33931, CMST 23931, HMRT 25107, ARTV 23931, CHST 23931

CMST 34405. Kieslowski’s French Cinema. 100 Units.
Krzysztof Kieślowski’s The Decalogue and The Double Life of Veronique catapulted the Polish director to the international scene. His subsequent French triptych Blue, White, Red turned out to be his last works that altered his image and legacy to affirm his status as an auteur and a representative of the transnational cinema. We
Chris Marker (1921-2012) is one of the most influential and important filmmakers to emerge in the post-war era in France, yet he remains relatively unknown to a wider audience. Marker’s multifaceted work encompasses writing, photography, filmmaking, videography, gallery installation, television, and digital multimedia. He directed over 60 films and is known foremost for his “essay films,” a hybrid of documentary and personal reflection, which he invigorated if not invented with films like Lettre de Sibérie (Letter from Siberia, 1958) or Sans Soleil (Sunless, 1983). His most famous film, La Jetée (1962), his only (science) fiction film made up almost entirely of black-and-white still photographs, was the inspiration for Terry Gilliam’s 12 Monkeys (1995). In 1990, he created his first multi-media installation, Zapping Zone, and in 1997 he experimented with the format of the CD-Rom to create a multi-layered, multimedia memoir (Immemory). In 2008, he continued his venture into digital spaces with Ouvroir, realized on the platform of Second Life. Marker was a passionate traveler who documented the journeys he took, the people he met, and revolutionary upheavals at home and afar. We will follow Marker’s travels through time, space, and media, during which we will also encounter artists with whom he crossed paths, with whom he collaborated, or who were inspired by his work.

This course takes the modern horror film as its object. For the purposes of this class, modern horror spans the period from 1960 to the present, although much of our attention will be directed toward the period from the 1980s to the present. We will examine key problems in the genre including, but not limited to an examination of the nature of the horrific, close formal analysis (which typically is neglected in favor of more culturally oriented approaches), questions of POV and camera movement, the articulation and construction of space, the role of gender in the genre, the changing importance of women as performers, characters, directors, and spectators, found footage/surveillance, and the genre’s address to the viewer.

Note(s): Not offered in 2022-23.
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 25610
CMST 36405. D.W. Griffith. 100 Units.
Controversies fuel American politics and culture. One hundred years ago, Intolerance shook the world, if not the most famous, then the most the most expensive and seminal movie ever made. One hundred and one, The Birth of a Nation generated the loudest controversy on the issue of race; at the same time, its powerful suspense sequence in the finale made this movie a fundamental of action-movie filmmaking for the century to come. Griffith came to movie industry in 1908 and dropped out of it in 1931. This course offers a quarter-of-a-century vast panorama of inventions and innovations, shames and triumphs, brilliant successes and spectacular failures connected with D.W. Griffith, the most famous pioneer in the history of film.
Equivalent Course(s): AMER 26405, FNDL 26405, AMER 36405, CMST 26405

CMST 36603. The Cinema of Miloš Forman. 100 Units.
The films of Miloš Forman (1932-2018) reflect the turbulence of the 1960s, ‘70s, ‘80s and ‘90s, and 2000s by focusing on the underdog, the pariah, the eccentric. The subject matter to which Forman was drawn translated into his cinema with a signature bittersweet tone, emphatic narrative cogency, and lush spontaneity. This course is an intensive study of Forman’s work from his “New Wave” work in Czechoslovakia (Loves of a Blonde, The Fireman’s Ball) to his U.S. studio successes (One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, Amadeus), to his idiosyncratic and parabolic last films (Man on the Moon, Goya’s Ghosts). Among other topics, the course contemplate the value of a dark sense of humor, cinematic gorgeousness, and artistic dissidence.
Instructor(s): Malynne Sternstein Terms Offered: TBD
Equivalent Course(s): REES 22010, FNDL 22010, CMST 26603, REES 32010

CMST 36610. Eisenstein. 100 Units.

CMST 36705. Kieslowski: The Decalogue. 100 Units.
In this class, we study the monumental series “The Decalogue” by one of the most influential filmmakers from Poland, Krzysztof Kieślowski. Without mechanically relating the films to the Ten Commandments, Kieślowski explores the relevance of the biblical moral rules to the state of modern man forced to make ethical choices. Each part of the series contests the absolutism of moral axioms through narrative twists and reversals in a wide, universalized sphere. An analysis of the films will be accompanied by readings from Kieślowski’s own writings and interviews, including criticism by Zizek, Insdorf, and others.
Instructor(s): Bozena Shallcross Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 26705, REES 37026, FNDL 24003, REES 27026

CMST 37007. Law and Order: Police and Procedure on the Global Screen. 100 Units.
This course will take a comparative approach to the representation of police procedure, broadly construed. On the one hand, we will look at a range of international examples from the fictional screen genre of the police procedural. Part of our focus will be on the effect that different legal institutions in different national contexts have on the representation of police procedure. On the other hand, we will be interested in various non-fictional approaches (e.g. documentaries and ethnographic studies) to the intersection between police and procedure. Of course there are innumerable approaches to thinking about the representation of police; this experimental class aims to investigate the topic exclusively through the lens of procedure. It will pose the following questions (among others): Why are procedural approaches to the representation of police work so ubiquitous? What constitutes a procedural approach to police? What is the relevant history of the police procedural? How does a comparative approach to police procedurals impact the kinds of questions a researcher asks? How useful is a genre studies approach to the police procedural?
Instructor(s): Salomé Aguilera Skvirsksy Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): Not offered in 2022-23.
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 27007

CMST 37011. Experimental Captures. 100 Units.
This production-based class will explore the possibilities and limits of capturing the world with imaging approaches that go beyond the conventional camera. What new and experimental image-based artworks can be created with technologies such as laser scanning, structured light projection, time of flight cameras, photogrammetry, stereography, motion capture, sensor augmented cameras or light field photography? This hands-on course welcomes students with production experience while being designed to keep established tools and commercial practices off-kilter and constantly in question.
Instructor(s): M. Downie Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Not offered in 2022-23.
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 27011, MAAD 21011, ARTV 27923, ARTV 37923

CMST 37205. Film Aesthetics. 100 Units.
The main questions to be discussed are: the bearing of cinema on philosophy; or in what sense, if any, is cinema a form of philosophical thought? What sort of distinctive aesthetic object is a film, or what is the “ontology” of film? What, in particular, distinguishes a “realist” narrative film? What is a “Hollywood” film? What is a Hollywood genre? Authors to be read include, among others, Bazin, Cavell, Perkins, Wilson, Rothman. Films to be seen and
discussed, among others, include films by Bresson, Ford, Ophuls, Cukor, Hitchcock, and the Dardenne brothers. (I)

Instructor(s): J. Conant, R. Pippin Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): PHIL 30208, PHIL 20208, CMST 27205, SCTH 38112

CMST 37805. Framing, Re-framing, and Un-framing Cinema. 100 Units.

By cinema, we mean the art of the moving image, which is not limited to the material support of a flexible band called film. This art reaches back to early devices to trick the eye into seeing motion and looks forward to new media and new modes of presentation. With the technological possibility of breaking images into tiny pixels and reassembling them and of viewing them in new way that this computerized image allows, we now face the most radical transformation of the moving image since the very beginnings of cinema. A collaboration between the OpenEndedGroup (Marc Downie and Paul Kaiser), artists who have created new modes of the moving image to explore and expand the moving image before it becomes too rigidly determined by the powerful industrial forces now propelling it forward. This course will be intensely experimental as we see how we might use new computer algorithms to take apart and re-experience classic films of the past. By using new tools, developed for and during this class, students will make new experiences inside virtual reality environments for watching, analyzing, and recombining films and that are unlike any other. These tools will enable students, regardless of previous programming experience, to participate in this crucial technological and cultural juncture.

Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 20805, ARTV 30805, CMST 27805

CMST 37816. From Open Worlds to Angry Birds: Videogame History 2000-2010. 100 Units.

This course will trace developments in the videogame medium and videogame cultures in the first decade of the new millennium. Topics include, but are not limited to, the following: the rise and influence of the open world/ sandbox genre; the spread of online gaming with Massively Multiplayer Online RPGs, networked First-Person Shooters, and virtual worlds; changes in the embodied experience of play introduced by rhythm/music games, motion controls, and touch screen interfaces; the proliferation of independent game development and online distribution; the rise of "art games" as a distinct (and debated) category; the reemergence of "retro" styles and repackaging of vintage games; the blurred boundaries of the "magic circle" and everyday life in Alternate Reality and Augmented Reality gaming; the increasing popularity of mobile and casual gaming; and the emergence of Videogame Studies as an academic field. This class will be a mix of history and historiography. We will not only learn about the history of the decade, but also discuss the unique possibilities and difficulties arising from the study of recent history - and put these discussions into practice through research-based assignments.

Instructor(s): Christopher Carloy Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 45516, CMST 27816, MAAD 25650

CMST 37821. Economic Objects: Capitalism as Medium. 100 Units.

As we now confront an economic contraction and reconstitution of unprecedented intensity in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, a focus on the possibility of transmedial economic representation and its criticism offers a timely and necessary opportunity to consider what art is and does in our historical moment. "Economic Objects: Capitalism as Medium" explores how shifting modes of the representation of the economy reflect transformed medial practices and their critique. We seek to complicate the relationship of Marxist aesthetic theory with contemporary habits of criticism including notions of "economic performativity," debt and finance as objects of artistic analysis, and ongoing debates about the scope and logic of commodification, each of which opens up new questions about the very representability of capitalism itself. The course will be organized around a set of "economic objects," which range from proper art objects to phenomena (practices, objects, material) not conventionally belonging to the category of "art." Readings will offer students exposure to current debates in aesthetics, critical theory and economic criticism.

Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Not offered in 2022-23.
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 27821

CMST 37867. 1990s Videogame History. 100 Units.

This course will trace developments in the videogame medium and videogame cultures in the final decade of the 20th century, discuss the unique possibilities and difficulties arising from the study of recent history, and put these discussions into practice through research-based assignments. Questions that will guide our study include: what was the relationship between technological innovations and stylistic changes in the videogame medium? How did the entry of new corporate and creative players into the business affect industrial structures and strategies? What do we make of "freedom," "realism," and other concepts that dominated videogame press coverage - and how were they connected to broader cultural discourses? How did understandings of what it meant to play videogames, and the types of experiences that videogames could offer, change over the course of the decade? What was the relationship between developments in the videogame medium and other media - from film and fiction to virtual reality and the Internet? How has this decade been remembered, conceptualized, preserved, and repackaged in subsequent decades?

Instructor(s): Chris Carloy Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): MAAD 15416, CMST 27867, MAPH 34516
CMST 37870. Digital Media Aesthetics: Interaction, Connection, and Improvisation. 100 Units.
This course investigates the ways that digital and networked media have changed contemporary aesthetics, forms, storytelling practices, and cultures. Along the way, we will analyze electronic literature, Twine games, interactive dramas, video games, transmedia narratives, and more. Formally, we will explore concepts such as multilinear narrative, immersive and navigable worlds, network aesthetics, interactive difficulty, aleatory poetics, and videogame mechanics. Throughout the quarter, our analysis of computational media aesthetics will be haunted by matters of race, gender, sexuality, class, and other ghosts in the machine. Students need not be technologically gifted or savvy, but a wide-ranging imagination and interest in new media cultures will make for a more exciting quarter. (20th/21st)
Instructor(s): Patrick Jagoda Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): TAPS 34770, GNSE 34770, CMST 67870, ENGL 34770

CMST 37880. Videogame Consoles: A Platform Studies Approach. 100 Units.
While videogames’ mix of art, play, and advanced technology gives game studies much of its vitality, the technological and computational aspects of the medium can be daunting for many—would-be students and designers. And yet no approach to the study of videogames can be exhaustive without some consideration of the material and technological grounds that make games possible. With this in mind, this course will introduce approaches to videogame studies that emphasize the platforms—the hardware, operating systems, etc.—on which games are played, and is intended for students with all levels of familiarity with the technological side of videogames. How do the various components of game platforms, from computer architecture to controllers to the underlying code, affect how games look, sound, and feel, how they are played, who designs them and how, how they are marketed and to whom, and how they are preserved? How do platforms emerge from particular technological, industrial, social, and cultural contexts, and how do they in turn affect the course of game history and culture? Classroom lectures and discussions of readings will be accompanied by weekly gameplay sessions at the MADD Center, which will provide close, hands-on engagement with game platforms. Possible objects of study include the Atari 2600 (1977), ColecoVision (1982), Sega Game Gear (1990) and Genesis/CD/32X (1988-94), Panasonic 3DO (1993), Nintendo 64 (1996) and Wii (2006), and PlayStation 4/VR (2013-16).
Instructor(s): Christopher Carloy Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Instructor consent required
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 27880, MAAD 17880, MAPH 37880

CMST 37887. The Platformer: History and Theory of a Videogame Genre. 100 Units.
This course will provide an introduction to genre history and theory in videogame studies through a focus on the “platformer.” Though not a common name outside of videogame culture, the platformer has introduced or popularized some of the medium’s most recognizable figures (Mario, Sonic the Hedgehog, Donkey Kong) and gameplay mechanics (running, jumping, avoiding enemies, and collecting items). The genre has also been instrumental in and reflective of changes across the videogame medium. This course will cover two decades (roughly 1990 - 2010), emphasizing both historical details and theoretical questions, such as: How have game genres been defined? How do distinct genres emerge and change over time? How do broader trends (technological, formal, industrial, discursive, experiential, etc.) influence individual genres, and what roles do individual genres play in these broader trends? What resources and methodologies exist for studying videogame genres? Throughout the course we’ll see the platformer alternate between an emphasis on linear, acrobatic movement across two-dimensional spaces and the free exploration of three-dimensional virtual worlds; between providing mascots for the biggest game companies and becoming a marker of independent, small-team production; and between being hailed as “revolutionary” and epitomizing the retro-nostalgic. Classroom lecture and discussion of readings will be accompanied by weekly gameplay sessions on original hardware at the MADD Center.
Instructor(s): Christopher Carloy Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Instructor consent required
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 27880, MAAD 17880, MAPH 37880

CMST 37911. Augmented Reality Production. 100 Units.
Focusing on experimental moving-image approaches at a crucial moment in the emerging medium of augmented reality, this class will explore and interrogate each stage of production of AR works. Students in this production-based class will examine the techniques and opportunities of this new kind of moving image. During this class we’ll study the construction of examples across a gamut from locative media, journalism, and gameplay-based works to museum installations. Students will complete a series of critical essays and sketches towards a final augmented reality project using a custom set of software tools developed in and for the class.
Instructor(s): Marc Downie Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Not offered in 2022-23.
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 27921, ARTV 37921, MAAD 22911, CMST 27911

CMST 37920. Virtual Reality Production. 100 Units.
Focusing on experimental moving-image approaches at a crucial moment in the emerging medium of virtual reality, this class will explore and interrogate each stage of production for VR. By hacking their way around the barriers and conventions of current software and hardware to create new optical experiences, students will design, construct and deploy new ways of capturing the world with cameras and develop new strategies and interactive logics for placing images into virtual spaces. Underpinning these explorations will be a careful discussion, dissection and reconstruction of techniques found in the emerging VR “canon” that spans new modes
of journalism and documentary, computer games, and narrative "VR cinema." Film production and computer programming experience is welcome but not a prerequisite for the course. Students will be expected to complete short "sketches" of approaches in VR towards a final short VR experience.

Instructor(s): Marc Downie Terms Offered: Spring

Note(s): Film production and computer programming experience is welcome but not a prerequisite for the course. Students will be expected to complete short "sketches" of approaches in VR towards a final short VR experience.

Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 27920, MAAD 24920, CMST 27920, ARTV 37920

CMST 38115. The Films of Robert Bresson: Contemplative Cinema and Poetic Thinking. 100 Units.

Bresson's films are known for their minimal and highly original style, the avoidance of any reliance on theatrical conventions, the use of nonprofessional actors ("models," he called them), unusual and "unnatural" editing techniques, distinctive pacing, and for its themes of grace, redemption, fate, moral severity, and several other philosophical and religious issues in the lives of the characters. This course will explore Bresson's innovations as aiming at a new form of contemplative cinema, one in which style is a matter of a kind of poetic thinking (as understood by Martin Heidegger), a reflective interrogation of philosophical issues that for which traditional philosophy is inadequate. We shall watch and discuss his films: Les dames du Bois de Boulogne (1945); The Diary of a Country Priest (1951); A Man Escaped (1956); Pickpocket (1959); Au hazard Balthasar (1966); Mouchette (1967); Four Nights of a Dreamer (1971) and L’argent (1983). Readings will include, among others, Bresson's Notes on the Cinematograph and Bresson on Bresson; Paul Schrader, The Transcendental Style in Film, selected essays about particular films, and selections from Heidegger.

Instructor(s): R. Pippin Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): Consent required.

Equivalent Course(s): PHIL 28115, SCTH 38115, CMST 28115, PHIL 38115

CMST 38346. Performance Theory: Action, Affect, Archive. 100 Units.

This seminar offers a critical introduction to performance theory and its applications to theatre and other practices. We will discuss three key conceptual clusters: a) action, acting, and forms of production or play, from classical (Aristotle) through modern (Hegel, Brecht, Artaud), to contemporary (Richard Schechner, Philip Zarilli, others); b) affect, and its intersections with emotion and feeling: in addition to contemporary theories, we will read earlier texts that anticipate recent debates (Diderot, Freud) and their current interpreters (Joseph Roach, Erin Hurley, others), as well as writing about the absence of affect and the performance of failure (Sara Bailes etc); c) archives and related institutions and theories, including audience formation (Susan Bennett) and challenges of recording ephemeral acts: theorists of memory (Pierre Nora) and remains (Rebecca Schneider), theatre historians (Daphne Brookes, Tracy Davis and others) as well as current theorists on the tensions between the archive and the repertoire (Diana Taylor). Requires active and complete participation; two oral presentations and final paper. Final paper could be a review article (ca 5000 words) using two recent books in your field to examine key concepts that define the field and controversies they may engender.

Instructor(s): Loren Kruger Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): Note: This course is intended only for those who have completed their undergraduate degree.

Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 46202, ENGL 46202, TAPS 46202

CMST 38700. History of International Cinema, Part III: 1960 to Present. 100 Units.

This course will continue the study of cinema around the world from the late 1950s through the 1990s. We will focus on New Cinemas in France, Czechoslovakia, Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom, and other countries. We will pay special attention to experimental stylistic developments, women directors, and well-known auteurs. After the New Cinema era we will examine various developments in world cinema, including the rise of Bollywood, East Asian film cultures, and other movements.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Spring

Note(s): This course follows the subject matter taught in CMST 28500/48500 and CMST 28600/48600, but these are not prerequisites.

Equivalent Course(s): CMST 28700, MAAD 18700

CMST 38703. Video Art: The Analog Years. Theory, Technology, Practice. 100 Units.

The course gives a critical introduction to early video and television art - from the proto-televisual impulses in the historical avant-gardes to the increasing proximity between analog and digital technologies in video art in the late 1970's and early 1980's. We will focus on the various technical aspects of analog video, as well as on artistic practice and early writings on the subject. Topics will include the technics and politics of time; video, feedback systems and ecology; the reconfiguration of the artist's studio; guerilla politics and alternative TV; video and autobiography; the relation between video and painting; the musical history of video; the invention of new machines; and video as a "television viewer".

Instructor(s): I. Blom Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): CMST 28703, MAAD 18703, ARTH 21313, ARTH 31313

CMST 38800. Politics and Cinema under Authority. 100 Units.

Why do authoritarian regimes take interest in art and culture? How do citizens respond to these efforts? Between authoritarian propaganda and outright contestation of authoritarianism is a wide niche of art and media production that is just independent enough to capture the attention of the citizens and yet subtle enough to not alarm authoritarian rulers. This is relevant for film and television in particular, which cannot function under
authoritarian regimes without official approval. In this course, we explore the compromises filmmakers make to continue their creative practice and the concessions state actors grant to accommodate artistic work using the 10-episode television series, Dekalog (1988), by the acclaimed Polish director Krzysztof Kieslowski. To answer our questions, we draw on literature and methodology from political science and film and media studies. We investigate what is to be gained by combining approaches from two disciplines that are rarely in conversation with each other.

Instructor(s): Maria Belodubrovskaya and Monika Nalepa

Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): Enrollment limit: 18

Equivalent Course(s): CMST 28805, CDIN 38800, REES 28800, REES 38800, PLSC 38801, PLSC 28805, CDIN 28801

CMST 38921. Introduction to 16mm Filmmaking. 100 Units.

The goal of this intensive laboratory course is to give its students a working knowledge of film production using the 16mm gauge. The course will emphasize how students can use 16mm technology towards successful cinematography and image design (for use in both analog and digital postproduction scenarios) and how to develop their ideas towards constructing meaning through moving pictures. Through a series of group exercises, students will put their hands on equipment and solve technical and aesthetic problems, learning to operate and care for the 16mm Bolex film camera; prime lenses; Sekonic light meter; Sachtler tripod; and Arri light kit and accessories. For a final project, students will plan and produce footage for an individual or small group short film. The first half the class will be highly structured, with demonstrations, in-class shoots and lectures. As the semester continues, class time will open up to more of a workshop format to address the specific concerns and issues that arise in the production of the final projects. This course is made possible by the Charles Roven Fund for Cinema and Media Studies.

Instructor(s): Thomas Comerford

Terms Offered: Winter

Note(s): Students will need written permission to enroll in the course. To bid for entry into the class, please email tcomerford@uchicago.edu with your name, major and year -- and please list any other media production or photography experience. Enrollment priority will be given to graduate and undergraduate CMS students, beginning with seniors, then to DoVA graduates and undergraduates, then to students in other departments.

Equivalent Course(s): MAAD 23808, ARTV 23808, CMST 28921, ARTV 33808

CMST 39022. Research Design and Archival Theory and Practice for Cinema and Media Studies. 100 Units.

What constitutes archival research in cinema and media studies? What role do archives play in research into and studies of media? What role does research play in shaping archival policy and practice? This course will explore the process of research on moving image media through a range of formats: the archive as space and repository, digital tools used for archival practice and access, and archival theory, questions of evidence, and the writing of history-both of and through moving images. Emphasis is on the process of research with attention to foundations of historiography, evidence, archival theory, and the various stages of writing. The course has two main threads. First, we will investigate a range of sites, practices, policies, and theoretical concerns surrounding moving image archiving. We will meet scholars and professional archivists working on a wide variety of research projects who will share their processes with us. Second, we will embark on one collective project that collaboratively weaves together multiple lines of inquiry around one topic. Drawing from traditional archives and libraries as well as engaging with digital tools, students will gain first-hand experience following the research process from discovery to identification to interpretation. From this course, students will learn how to design and implement archival research projects in cinema and media studies (with translatable to related disciplines).

Instructor(s): Allyson Field

Terms Offered: Spring

Note(s): Not offered in 2022-23.

Equivalent Course(s): IRHU 27011, CMST 29022, MAPH 39022

CMST 40000. Methods and Issues in Cinema Studies. 100 Units.

This course offers an introduction to ways of reading, writing on, and teaching film. The focus of discussion will range from methods of close analysis and basic concepts of film form, technique and style; through industrial/critical categories of genre and authorship (studios, stars, directors); through aspects of the cinema as a social institution, psycho-sexual apparatus and cultural practice; to the relationship between filmic texts and the historical horizon of production and reception. Films discussed will include works by Griffith, Lang, Hitchcock, Deren, Godard.

Instructor(s): Daniel Morgan

Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 33000, ARTH 39900, ENGL 48000

CMST 40651. Amateur Creativity in Modern China. 100 Units.

The ideal of the amateur author has repeatedly been invoked in different moments and for different purposes throughout the history of modern China. Non-professional writers have often been considered more "authentic"-their perceptions less hindered by conventions and more sensitive to the details of everyday life. In the socialist world, amateur writing and art was one of the strategies to contrast the division between mental and manual labor. And today, we assist to a veritable explosion made possible by digital media which fully reveals the inherent contradictions of amateur creativity. Seen by many as a means to escape oppressive labor regimes, it ends up being the most commodified form of labor of our times. This class will proceed through a series of case studies to understand the valorization of amateurism in modern Chinese culture in historical and comparative perspective. Special attention will be paid to the media environments that make it possible, and to the ways amateur writing and art depict labor. Our overall goal, in sum, will be to familiarize ourselves with some of the ways in which the relation between creativity, amateurism, and labor has been represented and theorized.
CMST 42027. New German Cinema. 100 Units.
This class will offer an intense exploration of the classical New German Cinema and some of the issues in its aesthetics, history and theory. Thus, we will see a broad variety of films (some familiar, some not so familiar: including work by R.W. Fassbinder, A. Kluge, W. Herzog, W. Wenders, H. Sanders-Brahms, U. Ottinger, J-M Straub/D Huilliet, et al.) and read a broad range of material-incorporating, among others, questions of genre, auteur theory, psychoanalysis, history, politics, and film style. Proficiency in German language, culture, or history is welcome but not required (all films have subtitles); a serious commitment to thinking about the logic, rhetoric, history, and textuality of film is essential. The pace and conceptual level of the readings make this course most appropriate for graduate students.

Instructor(s): Robert Bird Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): EALC 40651

CMST 42802. Media, Environment, and Risk. 100 Units.
In 1991, Ulrich Beck wrote that “society is made into a laboratory.” Following the Chernobyl disaster, Beck articulated how modern technology and its potential side-effects—such as radiation or chemical poisoning—had created the novel epistemological category of environmental risk defined by threats that escape human perception and transcend borders. Institutions monitoring ecological conditions gained responsibility for communicating public health. Political conflicts emerged between formations of expert and lay environmental knowledge. The technological application of modern science, and its associated environmental risks, pushed research beyond the laboratory and into the governmental fabric of social order: nuclear reactors had to be constructed and chemicals distributed to populations before their properties and safety could be understood. This seminar reads the debates on risk in environmental sociology alongside the emergence of risk criticism in media studies to interrogate the probabilistic thinking inherent to the communication of ecological threat. Two common traits characteristic of recent environmental catastrophes ranging from Bhopal, Fukushima Daiishi, Deepwater Horizon, Exxon Valdez, Hurricane Katrina, and the varied crises of global climate change, are that each disaster involves the failure or side-effect of an implemented technological project and that the corresponding risks—whether imperceptible or probable—are necessarily communicated to publics by media

Instructor(s): Thomas Pringle Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 30329, KNOW 36059, HIIS 26059, MAAD 26059, CHSS 36059

CMST 43418. Surrealism and Cinema. 100 Units.
This seminar examines the relations between Surrealism and the cinema in interwar France, and the aesthetic, political, and theoretical debates produced by their encounter. To what extent may Surrealism, in its varied iterations, be productively read through the optic of cinema, and even as a cinematic movement? And to what extent is cinema an implicitly Surrealist medium? In addition to tracing a precise history of Surrealism, cinema, and its discontents during this period through works by Louis Aragon, Antonin Artaud, Georges Bataille, Walter Benjamin, André Breton, Luis Buñuel, René Clair, Joseph Cornell, Salvador Dalí, Robert Desnos, Germaine Dulac, Louis Feuillade, Sigmund Freud, Jean Painlevé and Geneviève Hamon, Jean Vigo, and others, this class explores the potential of Surrealism as a methodology for critical and theoretical studies of cinema, literature, culture, and history.

Equivalent Course(s): FREN 36218

CMST 44510. The Aesthetics of Socialist Realism. 100 Units.
Socialist Realism was declared the official mode of Soviet aesthetic culture in 1934. Though it has been dismissed within the totalitarian model as propaganda or kitsch, this seminar will approach it from the perspective of its aesthetics. By this we mean not only its visual or literary styles, but also its sensory or haptic address to its audiences. Our premise is that the aesthetic system of Socialist Realism was not simply derivative or regressive, but developed novel techniques of transmission and communication; marked by a constant theoretical reflection on artistic practice, Socialist Realism redefined the relationship between artistic and other forms of knowledge, such as science. Operating in an economy of art production and consumption diametrically opposed to the Western art market, Socialist Realism challenged the basic assumptions of Western artistic discourse, including the concept of the avant-garde. It might even be said to offer an alternate model of revolutionary cultural practice, involving the chronicling and producing of a non-capitalist form of modernity. The seminar will focus on Soviet visual art, cinema and fiction during the crucial period of the 1930s under Stalin (with readings available in translation), but we welcome students with relevant research interests that extend beyond these parameters. Conducted jointly by professors Robert Bird (Slavic and Cinemma and Media Studies, University of Chicago) and Christina Kiaer, Art History, Northwestern University, course meetings will be divided evenly between the campuses of Northwestern Univ

Instructor(s): Robert Bird Terms Offered: TBD
Equivalent Course(s): REES 36067, ARTH 44502

CMST 44601. Opera Film: China / Europe: Thinking Media Hybridity across Cases. 100 Units.
This seminar will explore the mutual attraction of cinema and opera across the two vast operatic cultures of Europe and China in order to interrogate the many cross-cultural issues that their media encounters produce and accentuate. Such issues include changing relations to myth, ritual, history, and politics; cross-dressing
and gender-bending; closed forms or open; stock characters wand plots or narrative fluidity. We will ask why in both China and Europe, opera repeatedly became the conflicted site of nationalist and modernizing aspirations, reiterations of tradition, and attempts at avant-gardism. When the presumed realism of film meets the extravagant hyperperformativity of opera, the encounter produces some extraordinary third kinds-media hybrids. Film repeatedly wrestled with the inherent histrionics of opera through the use of such devices as close-ups, camera angles, shot reverse shot, displacement of sound from sight, acousmatic sound, and trick photography. Such devices were generally meant to suture the supposed improbabilities of the operatic art form, incongruities often based on extravagant and transcendent relationships to realism. Such cinematic renderings of opera are highly revealing of fundamental faultlines in the genres themselves and revealing of the cultures that produced them.

Instructor(s): J. Zeitlin and M. Feldman
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): ITAL 41419, CDIN 41401, TAPS 41401, EALC 41401, MUSI 45019

CMST 47007. Seeing and Knowing. 100 Units.
The concept of visuality attends to the ways in which things become seeable, knowable, and governable. Scholars who study optical instruments, architecture, cinema, and media have done much to show us how visual technologies change our ways of seeing. Others in the history of science study how practices of observation transform our understanding of nature-and ourselves. This comparative course analyzes regimes of visuality in different cultural and historical contexts. After a short introduction on the philosophy of visual experience and psychology of visual perception, we will investigate a series of configurations of seeing and knowing. These sites range from the history of disability to contemporary climate science, and students will be asked to contribute visual topics from their own research or disciplines for collective exploration in our seminar. Through comparative study, we will work to develop new categories or relationships for linking perception and knowledge.

Instructor(s): Alex Campolo
Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): CHSS 40307, KNOW 40307, ARTH 40307

CMST 47801. Media Archeology vs. Media Aesthetics. 100 Units.
The course stages an encounter between media archeology and media aesthetics, two distinct but related research perspectives that are at times seen as incommensurable approaches to the media technological environment. Media archeology focuses on the non-human agencies and complex machinic arrangements that are at work in technologies whose microtemporal operations cannot be grasped by human perception: media archeology typically refuses phenomenological approaches. In contrast, media aesthetics focuses on the phenomenological interface between machine systems and human perception and sensation, and various forms of cultural and political negotiations of a lifeworld that is increasingly dominated by technologies that both store and produce time. We will read key texts from both fields and discuss how we may understand their differences as well as their points of intersection.

Instructor(s): I. Blom
Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Students must attend 1st class to confirm enrollment.
Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 41313

CMST 47803. The Body of Cinema: Hypnoses, Emotions, Animalities. 100 Units.
TBD
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 27803, ENGL 37803

CMST 48108. Film, Music, Emotion. 100 Units.
This course explores the role of emotions in movies. Films represent emotions, such as the feelings of a character; and they elicit emotions in viewers, making it part of their cinematic experience. Cinematic emotions are often constitutive of genre, ranging from the laughter in slapstick comedy to cathartic tears in melodrama. While film has long been scrutinized for the visual representation of emotions (for example with the close-up of a face), sound and music are vital contributors to representing and eliciting emotions. This seminar will focus on a series of films that mix emotions in order to express social dilemmas and dramatic conflict, often connected to issues of gender, sexual, and racial identity. Films discussed range from Stella Dallas (1937) and Imitation of Life (1937) to Moonlight (2016) and Parasite (2019). Readings will include scholarship in film studies, affect theory, and some empirical research in cognitive and social psychology. Participants will take turns in functioning as “experts” for select class sessions by preparing readings and objects for class discussion. In weeks 7-10, the seminar will partly focus on objects and research pertinent to participants’ research papers, which will be presented at a mini-conference in Week 11.

Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): Open for MAPH students only.
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 48108

CMST 48210. Data Driven Documentary. 100 Units.
TBD

CMST 48500-48600. History of International Cinema I-II.
This sequence is required of students majoring in Cinema and Media Studies. Taking these courses in sequence is strongly recommended but not required.
CMST 48500. History of International Cinema I: Silent Era. 100 Units.
This course provides a survey of the history of cinema from its emergence in the mid-1890s to the transition to sound in the late 1920s. We will examine the cinema as a set of aesthetic, social, technological, national, cultural, and industrial practices as they were exercised and developed during this 30-year span. Especially important for our examination will be the exchange of film techniques, practices, and cultures in an international context. We will also pursue questions related to the historiography of the cinema, and examine early attempts to theorize and account for the cinema as an artistic and social phenomenon.
Instructor(s): Allyson Field Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Prior or concurrent registration in CMST 10100 is required. Course is required for students majoring or minoring in Cinema and Media Studies.
Note(s): For students majoring in Cinema and Media Studies, the entire History of International Cinema three-course sequence must be taken.
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 33600, CMLT 32400, MAAD 18500, ARTH 28500, ARTH 38500, CMST 28500, ENGL 29300, ENGL 48700, CMLT 22400

CMST 48600. History of International Cinema II: Sound Era to 1960. 100 Units.
The center of this course is film style, from the classical scene breakdown to the introduction of deep focus, stylistic experimentation, and technical innovation (sound, wide screen, location shooting). The development of a film culture is also discussed. Texts include Thompson and Bordwell’s Film History: An Introduction; and works by Bazin, Belton, Sitney, and Godard. Screenings include films by Hitchcock, Welles, Rossellini, Bresson, Ozu, Antonioni, and Renoir.
Instructor(s): Daniel Morgan Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Prior or concurrent registration in CMST 10100 required. Required of students majoring or minoring in Cinema and Media Studies.
Note(s): CMST 28500/48500 strongly recommended
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 32500, CMST 28600, ARTH 38600, ARTH 28600, MAAD 18600, REES 45005, CMLT 22500, ARTH 20003, MAPH 33700, ENGL 48900, REES 25005, ENGL 29600

CMST 53500. Guillotine / Barricade: Figures of History Across Media. 100 Units.
Taking up the French historical technologies of the guillotine and the barricade, this doctoral seminar explores the history of political spectacle, violence, death, and resistance as also part of a history of figuration-conceptualized by Julia Kristeva as the establishment of a relation between two historical realities-across media. We will examine the actual materials and practices of the guillotine and the barricade alongside literary, artistic, and filmic works that deploy the figural logic of both technologies as part of their formal, representational, and/or political articulation. This seminar thus seeks to examine the methodological stakes of inter-medial and interdisciplinary history and historiography that draws equally from French history, literature, visual art (including sculpture), architecture, and film. This class will be taught in English; French reading and research skills are not necessary, but would be beneficial.
Instructor(s): J. Wild Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): FREN 43501, CDIN 53500

CMST 57200. Film Semiotics: Toward a Linguistic Anthropology of Cinema. 100 Units.
In this seminar we explore a series of topics in the semiotics of film as approached through the semiotic theory developed out of linguistic anthropology: topics will include revisiting questions of structuralist film semiology; iconicity, textuality, and the poetic function; indexicality and ontology; deixis and enunciation; voicing and structures of looking; performativity and image-acts; aesthetic style and enregisterment; rigid designation and stardom. The larger aims of the course are two-fold: one, to articulate a pragmaticist account of the evenemential semiotics of cinema as institutional and textual form-as broached both through ethnographic and close textual methods of analysis-and in doing reconceptualize certain key film theoretic issues; two, to expand and rethink linguistic anthropology’s semiotic theory and analysis beyond language/through cinema; in short, to think both film studies and linguistic anthropology with and against each other so as to further a semiotics of moving images.
Instructor(s): Constantine V. Nakassis Terms Offered: Spring, Spring 2023
Prerequisite(s): Undergraduates by Consent.
Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 57400

CMST 58910. Aesthetics and Politics. 100 Units.
Aesthetics and Politics: Adorno, Benjamin, Bloch, Brecht, Lowenthal, Lukacs, … This PhD seminar will build on the work covered in Marxism and Modern Culture to examine in more detail and where possible in the original German the arguments about the intersections and frictions between aesthetics and politics in high, middle, and mass cultural forms of literature, performance, film and other media, in the work of the above theorists.
Instructor(s): Loren Kruger Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): PhD Seminar: Marxism or equivalent grad training; German desirable
Note(s): Consent required, please email the professor, Loren Kruger (lkruger@uchicago.edu) by Friday, March 17th with details about your program, and preparation to take the course.
Equivalent Course(s): TAPS 58910, ENGL 58910, CMLT 58910
CMST 59900. Reading and Research, CMST. 100 Units.
This course is intended for graduate students in the Cinema and Media Studies program to take independent study with a faculty member. The subject matter, course of study, and individual requirements must be arranged with the instructor prior to registration.

CMST 60990. Independent Study. 100 Units.
Independent study offered for a quality grade.
Instructor(s): Allyson Field Terms Offered: Winter

CMST 61001. Black Film as Art / Black Art as Film. 100 Units.
The aesthetic dimensions of "Black film" tend to be subordinated to historical, social and political lines of inquiry - histories of "art film" tend not to include works by Black artists. This seminar foregrounds questions of form and style in film and video works by a wide range Black artists in order to develop new ways of understanding the complex, mutually constitutive relations between Blackness and the moving image. We will pursue experimental practices by Black film and video makers - beginning in the era of segregated "race film" production of the 1910s-40s, considering moments of stylistic experimentation in the narrative films of Micheaux, Maurice and Williams. We then discuss later film and videomakers who work more consistently and explicitly in experimental modes - the second category includes film and video works by Black visual and performance artists who exhibit in gallery and museum contexts. Along the way, we will discuss intersections with vanguard practices in related art forms, curatorial efforts, and movements between the art world and the film industry.

CMST 61102. The L.A. Rebellion and the Politics of Black Cinema. 100 Units.
Equivalent Course(s): EALC 44904

CMST 61120. Issues and Aesthetics in Contemporary Black Film. 100 Units.
This course considers innovations and trends in Black film aesthetics and politics over the past twenty years. We will focus specifically on their implications for film theory and criticism.
Instructor(s): Kara Keeling Terms Offered: Winter

CMST 64904. Remapping New Waves: New Cinemas, Film Theory and Criticism in Japan. 100 Units.
We have recently seen a growing number of works that aimed at a broader and renewed understanding of the new cinemas of the 1960s in Japan, with more complex accounts of the historical, geographical, and geopolitical trajectory of the Japanese New Wave. Ongoing investigations have largely ascribed its rise to Oshima Nagisa, the central figure in the publicity-driven phenomenon known as the "Shōchiku Nouvelle Vague" (Nüberu Baļgu). Amidst these new scholarly texts, there are still a series of theoretical and historical/historiographical questions that have remained underexplored: where did the Japanese New Wave come from, and what actually constituted it? How did the emergence of the new cinema intersect with larger media, social, and intellectual history? Did the cinematic medium have to be radicalized in order to become 'new'? How was such 'newness' visualized, accousticized, and registered by other sensory cues in the cinema? How was the emergence of the new cinema in dialogue with institutions? Placing films in the contexts of the era's media-scape, this course will delve into an analytical reconsideration of this rich period of Japanese cinema specifically from the perspective of the Japanese New Wave. While we will aim to capture the exhilaration of the Japanese New Wave by closely analyzing existing studies on some of its key makers and their works, special attention will be given to what has been left out of the category as it is conventionally understood, such as educational and industrial films. All required readings are in English. Participants with reading ability in Japanese will be asked to take on additional readings in Japanese and present on them in class.
Equivalent Course(s): EALC 44904

CMST 65500. Horror and Beyond. 100 Units.
All films are horror films. Film's spectrality had been a given since the earliest days of its existence, as it exists as the captured shadows of people and things no longer present. Joining photographs, the telegraph, the telephone, and the phonograph, film immediately presented itself as a kind of sense-memory that could present the traces of those not present, and even, traces of the dead. Nipper's perch on the coffin of his owner, reacting to his very live voice, sets the stage for Edison to announce the kinetograph, which "would do for the eye what the phonograph had done for the ear." That is, it would bring us into the uncanny presence of a world beyond the reach of our unaided senses. In this context, horror would seem to lay claim to being a "cine-genre," as defined by Pitorofsky - a genre that deals with fundamental properties of the medium. Throughout its history, and even its pre-history horror films have mediated our encounters with the non-human: technology, the dead, the world of creatures, and our bodies, to the extent that they do not belong to us. Terror, disgust, shock, trauma, and the uncanny all find their expression in horror films, and this course aims to explore how the horror film has explored the uncanny, animism, "primitive" thought, evil, the mind and the body's relationship to technology, climate change, and the world considered as excluding humans. As Benjamin once said, "It is a different nature that speaks to the camera than to the eye."
Instructor(s): James Lastra Terms Offered: Autumn

CMST 67006. Cognitive Approaches to Spectatorship. 100 Units.
This course provides an overview of cognitive approaches to film and media spectatorship to date. It reviews theories of perception, emotion, and cognitive processing as they relate to film viewing and appropriation, and specifically: cognitive theories of human emotions; how film viewing engages body and mind; cognitive
approaches to analyzing storytelling and style; cognitive games films play with us; and the theories of attention, identification, and ideological persuasion.

Instructor(s): Maria Belodubrovskaya Terms Offered: Autumn

CMST 67021. Performance Captured. 100 Units.
Technologies that turn human action, appearance and performance into data for storage, transformation and redisplay have a long history inside and outside of moving image arts. This class will look at the opportunities, aesthetics and politics of these approaches running through contemporary special effects, traditional and experimental animation, dance on camera and live performance at a moment when boundaries between these categories have become especially porous.

Instructor(s): Marc Downie Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Not offered in 2022-23.
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 27021, MAAD 20721

CMST 67035. Framing, Reframing, Unframing Cinema. 100 Units.
This class combines three emerging ways of looking at cinema: a continuously growing barrage of AI-based algorithms that seek to unlock data latent in images; existing films and digital archives of moving image material; and tools and programming environments oriented towards the construction of new moving-image works, viewing situations and logics. At a time when we are perhaps further away from the stable objects of cinema than we have ever been, when digital streaming repackages and recomposes film in front of our very eyes, or when virtual, augmented and mixed realities embed and dissolve cinema’s frames in new and virtual spaces, what are the positive opportunities for scholarship and creation we can find? This class is open to graduate students regardless of their production, coding, film-making experience. If you have any curiosity around the potentials and mechanisms of computers seeing us, seeing our film and video, helping navigate and bootstrap new digital humanities approaches or curiosities that shade quantitative or algorithmic, join us in this class - there’s important work to be started here.

Instructor(s): Marc Downie Terms Offered: Spring

CMST 67120. The Cinematic Camera and the Single-shot Film. 100 Units.
This course hopes to interrogate the specificities of the cinematic camera by paring the variables down to single-shot films. We will examine the idea of the cinematic dispositif or “apparatus” and ask whether there is such a thing as the camera rather than a multiplicity of cameras. We will address the persistence of animism in film theory and criticism, attempts to define the quiddity of the filmed image, analogies between human and creaturely perception, machine vision, forms and logics of picturing and pictorial organization. We will also take the opportunity to examine acoustic analogs (the microphone, the recording) in order to help us understand the logics and the fallacies at work in our basic analytic concepts. Our film viewing will concentrate upon very early cinema (the Lumières, Edison, etc.) and on the avant-garde (Warhol, Snow, Gottheim, Jacobs, Gehr, etc.). Along the way, we will examine some mainstream films like Rope and Russian Ark, or Birdman.

Instructor(s): Jim Lastra Terms Offered: Spring

CMST 67211. What Was Mise-en-scène? 100 Units.
Mise-en-scène is often understood as a synonym for the act of directing, especially in theater. In film style it is associated with the placement accorded to the placement of props and characters within the film frame, usually in combination with camera movement. This concept was especially important in film criticism of the fifties and sixties and often connected with key post-WWII filmmakers such as Nicholas Ray, Douglas Sirk and Otto Preminger. This seminar will explore the concept both as historical critical concept, and as an ongoing way to discuss the nature of film style.

Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 47211

CMST 67221. Postcolonial Theory. 100 Units.
An introduction to postcolonial theory; its rise in the Anglophone academy; overlaps with critical race studies, feminist theory, indigenous studies. I will conclude with the recent planetary turn in postcolonial studies.

Instructor(s): Rochona Majumdar Terms Offered: Spring

CMST 67234. The New Formalisms. 100 Units.
This graduate seminar investigates a range of recent works that aim to create new models of formal analysis. The subject matter will be wide-ranging, covering literary studies (e.g., surface reading), art history, and cinema and media studies. We’ll focus in particular on the way that debates over form resonate with broader philosophical and theoretical problems.

Instructor(s): Daniel Morgan Terms Offered: Spring

CMST 67321. Philosophy and Experimental Film. 100 Units.
The interest of postwar North American experimental filmmakers in philosophy is well-known, for example Stan Brakhage’s interest in Ludwig Wittgenstein, Maya Deren’s appeals to Henri Bergson, or Hollis Frampton’s writings on Godel’s incompleteness theorem. In this seminar, we will closely watch a selection of important experimental films accompanied by filmmakers’ writings and associated texts by philosophers such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Gilles Deleuze, Stanley Cavell, and others. Our central question will be: how do experimental filmmakers practice philosophy in their creative work?

Instructor(s): D. N. Rodowick Terms Offered: Spring
CMST 67804. Media Ecology. 100 Units.
Studies of media in recent years have increasingly turned toward questions about ecologies and environments, energy and elemental forces, relational theories and non-discrete objects. The first aim of this seminar is to introduce some of the key problematics associated with this 'turn' in media studies. At the same time, due to the proliferation of turns (elemental, environmental, ecological, energetic), objects (media forms, devices, platforms, networks, infrastructures) and concerns (more-than-human life, settler colonialism, indigenous struggles, migration), this seminar aims to provide a practical focus for doing media ecology or thinking media ecologically. The problematic for fall 2022 is Plant Media or "thinking with plants through media." Topics includes contemporary research on plant intelligence, which raises questions about intelligence without physical correlates, forcing us to deal with intelligence in terms of the whole plant as an ecology. We will also consider the mediating role of media, from self-writing plants to time-lapse audio and video to parse movement as intelligence. Finally, this ecological approach encourages a reconsideration of eco-agriculture and alternative paths of cultivation.
Instructor(s): Thomas Lamarre Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): EALC 67804

CMST 67830. What's New in New Media. 100 Units.
This seminar explores new writing on the topic of new media, digital technology, and new practices of image-making. We’ll explore a range of different theoretical texts, but also explore recent writing on some of the following topics: media infrastructures; the materiality of media; techniques and technologies of image-making (3D, VR, animation); video games; media archeology; race and media; the politics of social media; queer theory and media studies; and the internationalization of debates on media. We’ll look at writers such as: Nicole Starosielski; Melody Jue; Yak Hui; Kara Keeling; Lisa Nakamura; Lisa Parks; Wendy Hui Kyong Chun; Andrew Johnston; Ina Blom; Patrick Jagoda; Kris Cohen; Shane Denson; Brooke Belisle; and others.
Instructor(s): Daniel Morgan Terms Offered: Winter

CMST 67870. Digital Media Aesthetics: Interaction, Connection, and Improvisation. 100 Units.
This course investigates the ways that digital and networked media have changed contemporary aesthetics, forms, storytelling practices, and cultures. Along the way, we will analyze electronic literature, Twine games, interactive dramas, video games, transmedia narratives, and more. Formally, we will explore concepts such as multilinear narrative, immersive and navigable worlds, network aesthetics, interactive difficulty, aleatory poetics, and videogame mechanics. Throughout the quarter, our analysis of computational media aesthetics will be haunted by matters of race, gender, sexuality, class, and other ghosts in the machine. Students need not be technologically gifted or savvy, but a wide-ranging imagination and interest in new media cultures will make for a more exciting quarter. (20th/21st)
Instructor(s): Patrick Jagoda Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): TAPS 34770, GNSE 34770, CMST 37870, ENGL 34770

CMST 68400. Style and Performance from Stage to Screen. 100 Units.
Actor is the oldest profession among arts. Cinema is the youngest art there is. What happens with faces, gestures, monologues, and voices; ancient skills like dance or mime; grand histrionics etc. when arts of performance hit the medium of screen? This course will focus on the history of acting styles in silent films, mapping "national" styles of acting that emerged during the 1910s (American, Danish, Italian, Russian) and various "acting schools" that proliferated during the 1920s ("Expressionist acting," "Kuleshov's Workshop," et al.). We will discuss film acting in the context of various systems of stage acting (Delsarte, Stanislavsky, Meyerhold) and the visual arts.
Equivalent Course(s): EALC 67804

CMST 68820. Film Propaganda. 100 Units.
This seminar explores film propaganda and propaganda films. We will look at various conceptions of propaganda and ask: What is the difference between propaganda, rhetoric, and persuasion? What is the relationship between film propaganda, mass art, and information? What is the relationship between film propaganda and the state? Is film propaganda an art form, and what are its formal features? How has film propaganda been used throughout film history, including in Nazi Germany, the Soviet Union, the United States, and China? And what do we know about propaganda films' effects on audiences?
Instructor(s): Maria Belodubrovskaya Terms Offered: Autumn

CMST 69002. Cinema and Labor. 100 Units.
TBD

CMST 69110. The Archive: Materiality, Aesthetics, Visual Culture. 100 Units.
This graduate seminar will prepare students to conduct archival research, and to build a research archive from different historical, methodological, and theoretical perspectives. While we will engage a range of texts on archival methodology, theory, and the phenomenology of the archive, we will also examine questions concerning aesthetics, materiality, visual culture, and the digital that inform our understanding of archives today. The seminar will be partially organized around case studies that foreground different archival modes of discovery, evaluation, and interpretation—including those that constitute the "counter archive." Students will learn practical skills for conducting research in filmic, paper and print, and internet archives, and develop the investigative, analytical abilities that are necessary for building an archive around either material objects or theoretical questions.
Instructor(s): Jennifer Wild Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 49700, FREN 49100

CMST 69901. The Films of Ozu Yasujiro. 100 Units.
This course explores Ozu Yasujiro’s works from both national and transnational perspectives. Through an intense examination of Ozu’s robust film making career, from the student comedies of the late 1920s to the family drama (in Agfacolor) of the early 1960s, we will locate Ozu’s works at a dialogic focal point of Japanese, East Asian, American, and European cinema.

CMST 70000. Advanced Study: Cinema & Media Studies. 300.00 Units.
Advanced Study: Cinema & Media Studies

For further information concerning the PhD Program in Cinema and Media Studies, please see the Graduate Program pages (https://cms.uchicago.edu/content/graduate-program/) on the department’s website. Prospective students should also reach out to the Department Administrator (cinema@uchicago.edu) with questions or to request more information.

INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY

The application process for admission and financial aid for all graduate programs in the Humanities is administered through the divisional Office of the Dean of Students. The Application for Admission and Financial Aid, with instructions, deadlines and department specific information is available online at: http://humanities.uchicago.edu/students/admissions (http://humanities.uchicago.edu/students/admissions/).

General questions pertaining to admissions and aid should be directed to humanitiesadmissions@uchicago.edu or (773) 702-1552.

Information related to admissions in CMS are outlined on the department’s website (https://cms.uchicago.edu/graduate/admissions/).

International students must provide evidence of English proficiency by submitting scores from either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). (Current minimum scores, etc., are provided with the application.) For more information, please see the Office of International Affairs website at https://internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu (https://internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu/), or call them at (773) 702-7752.

CINEMA AND MEDIA STUDIES COURSES

CMST 31025. Creating a Different Image: Black Women’s Filmmaking of the 1970s-90s. 100 Units.
This course will explore the rich intersections between African American women’s filmmaking, literary production, and feminist thought from the 1970s to the early 1990s, with an emphasis on the formation of a Black women’s film culture beginning in the 1970s. We will examine the range of Black feminisms presented through film and the ways that these films have challenged, countered, and reimagined dominant narratives about race, class, gender, and sexuality in America.

Instructor(s): Allyson Field Terms Offered: Winter

Note(s): Course Description Continued: We will explore the power and limitations of filmmaking as a mode of Black feminist activism; the range of Black feminisms presented through film; and the specific filmic engagements of well-known Black feminist critics such as bell hooks, Toni Cade Bambara, and Michele Wallace. As many Black feminist writers were engaged with filmmaking and film culture, we will look at these films alongside Black women’s creative and critical writing from the period. Approaching filmmaking in the context of Black feminist thought will allow us to examine the possibilities of interdisciplinary approaches to film studies broadly, as well as to think specifically about the research methods and theories that are demanded by Black women’s filmmaking in particular. We will discuss the form, aesthetics, and politics of individual films and we will examine larger efforts by artists and activists to build a Black women’s film culture, asking such questions as: What does a film history of Black feminism look like, and what scholarly and creative methods does such a history demand? To begin to answer these questions, we will revisit the 1976 Sojourner Truth Festival of the Arts—believed to be the first ever Black women’s film festival—organized by Michele Wallace, Faith Ringgold, Patricia Jones, Margo Jefferson, and Monica Freeman. The class will collectively participate in a homage series inspired by the 1976 festival, featuring work by filmmakers from the original festival such as Monica Freeman, Madeline Anderson, Michelle Parkerson, Ayoka Chenzira, Carol Munday Lawrence, Edie Lynch, and Camille Billops; as well as others including Julie Dash, Zeinabu irene Davis, Maya Angelou, and Yvonne Welbon. The weekly course screenings will be open to the public and students will gain experience in the public presentation of films by actively engaging in public-facing aspects of film exhibition (writing program notes, delivering introductions, participating in discussions, etc.). The class will culminate with a two-day symposium that will bring together around 35 Black feminist filmmakers and artists, including a number from the 1976 festival, to revisit the threads and legacies of the original event and discuss the present and future of Black women’s film practices. This course is open to graduate and undergraduate students from across the disciplines; our conversations and presentations of the films will both depend on and be energized by different disciplinary perspectives.

Equivalent Course(s): CRES 21025, HMRT 31025, HIST 37415, HMRT 21025, HIST 27415, GNSE 30128, CMST 21025, KNOW 31025, GNSE 20128
CMST 31703. Weimar Cinema. 100 Units.
German films between the end of World War I and the establishment of the Third Reich in 1933 are extraordinarily eclectic and intensely inventive, encompassing horror film, socially conscious dramas, expressionist fantasies, experimental documentary, early proto-fascist and anti-fascist films, and that ur-German invention, the mountain film. We will consider some of the most important works of the period, including films by Fritz Lang, Ernst Lubitsch, G.W. Pabst, F.W. Murnau, Arnold Fanck, Walter Ruttmann, and Josef von Sternberg, examining their context, style, reception, formal achievements and historical significance.
Instructor(s): David Levin Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 21703, GRMN 37710, GRMN 27710

CMST 32118. Nazi Cinema. 100 Units.
Nazi cinema. An examination of a broad range of films produced under the National Socialist regime, from mass spectacles to domestic melodramas, from comedies to hagiographic bio-pics to dramatized propaganda. Throughout we will seek to explore the national, formal, and ideological particularity of these films and to trace their conceptual logic. What, we will ask, constitutes the National Socialist (film) aesthetic? Readings in film history and cultural theory. No prerequisites, but a commitment to close readings - of films and criticism - and lively, thoughtful engagement will be essential. In English. A German language discussion section may be added.
Instructor(s): David Levin Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): GRMN 22118, CMST 22118, GRMN 32118

CMST 32119. Richard Wagner's Ring of the Nibelung in Performance. 100 Units.
This seminar, open to undergraduates and beginning graduate students, serves as a critical introduction to and intensive exploration of Richard Wagner's 19th century tetralogy. In addition to critical readings (e.g., by Wagner, Adorno, Nietzsche, Badiou, Dahlhaus, et al.) and screenings of a host of productions, we will travel downtown to Lyric Opera to attend performances of the Ring cycle in David Pountney's new production. Our discussions of the Chicago production will be supplemented by conversations with members of the Lyric Opera production team, including Anthony Freud, Lyric Opera's General Director. No previous knowledge is required although a curiosity about opera, German culture, media history, and/or theater & performance studies will be essential.
Instructor(s): David Levin Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): MUSI 24520, GRMN 23419, CMST 22119, FNDL 23419, GRMN 33419, MUSI 32520

CMST 33030. The Italian Cinematographic Comedy. 100 Units.
An important genre in Italian cinema is represented by the "commedia," in particular the declination "all'italiana." It is a very original form of representation of the world invented by Italian cinema. The comedy genre has marked many decades of Italian cinematography: from the plot comedies of the Fifties (going back until the Thirties) with films like 'Due soldi di speranza' (1952) by Renato Castellani, to the grotesque comedy of masks of the Sixties, with authors such as Dino Risi ('Il sorpasso,' 1962, 'I mostri,' 1963), Mario Monicelli ('La Grande Guerra,' 1959) and Pietro Germi ('Divorzio all'italiana,' 1961, 'Sedotta e abbandonata,' 1964), up to the dominance of the grotesque representation of the world, with authors such as Elio Petri ('Indagine su un cittadino al di sopra di ogni sospetto,' 1972). The heritage of the commedia all'Italiana can be found in contemporary Italian cinema, as for example with Nanni Moretti. Moretti's cinema in fact summarizes the entire inheritance of Italian cinematographic modernity - starting from neorealism and up to comedy and author cinema - in one of the most effective ways. The Italian cinematographic comedy is also rooted in the Italian literary tradition, in the masks of "commedia dell'arte," and generally speaking in the different aspects of grotesque tradition (as analyzed by Bachtin).
Instructor(s): Roberto De Gaetano Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Open to undergraduates in their third or fourth year.
Note(s): Taught in English.
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 23030, ITAL 33020, ITAL 23020

CMST 33321. Bollywood Beats: Music and Sound in Popular Hindi Cinema. 100 Units.
This course explores the music and sound of popular Hindi cinema from aesthetic, social, cultural, economic, historical, and political perspectives. Students will be introduced to the musical conventions and practices of the genre, and to changes in Bollywood musical style over the course of the 20th and 21st centuries. We will watch select films with keen attention to music's imbrication with cinematic visibility, narrative, technology, and dance, and with consideration of issues like emplacement, gender, caste, religion, capitalism, nationalism, and transnationalism. Bollywood is a cosmopolitan music, drawing from and contributing to a range of regional and international music practices; we also venture into some of those streams.
Instructor(s): Anna Schultz Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): MUSI 33321, SALC 33321, CMST 23321, SALC 23321, MUSI 23321

CMST 33500. Pasolini. 100 Units.
This course examines each aspect of Pasolini's artistic production according to the most recent literary and cultural theories, including Gender Studies. We shall analyze his poetry (in particular "Le Ceneri di Gramsci" and "Poesie informa di rosa"), some of his novels ("Ragazzi di vita," "Una vita violenta," "Teorema," "Petrolio"), and his numerous essays on the relationship between standard Italian and dialects, semiotics and cinema, and the role of intellectuals in contemporary Western culture. We shall also discuss the following films: "Accattone," "La ricotta," "Edipo Re," "Teorema," and "Salò".
Instructor(s): Armando Maggi Terms Offered: Autumn
CMST 33701. The Cinema of Jean Renoir. 100 Units.

TBD

Equivalent Course(s): FREN 23712, FREN 33712, FNDL 23901, FNDL 33901, CMST 23701

CMST 33930. Documentary Production I. 100 Units.

Documentary Video Production focuses on the making of independent documentary video. Examples of various modes of documentary production will be screened and discussed. Issues embedded in the genre, such as the ethics, the politics of representation, and the shifting lines between “the real” and “fiction” will be explored. Story development, pre-production strategies, and production techniques will be our focus, in particular-research, relationships, the camera, interviews and sound recording, shooting in available light, working in crews, and post-production editing. Students will work in crews and be expected to purchase a portable hard drive. A five-minute string-out/rough-cut will be screened at the end of the quarter. Students are strongly encouraged to take Doc Production 2 to complete their work.

Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): Prior or concurrent enrollment in CMST 10100 recommended for undergraduate students.

Equivalent Course(s): CHST 23930, ARTV 23930, HMRT 25106, HMRT 35106, MAAD 23930, CMST 23930, ARTV 33930

CMST 33931. Documentary Production II. 100 Units.

Documentary Video Production II focuses on the shaping and crafting of a non-Fiction video. Enrollment will be limited to those students who have taken Documentary Production I. The class will discuss issues of ethics, power, and representation in this most philosophical and problematic of genres. Students will be expected to write a treatment outline detailing their project and learn about granting agencies and budgeting. Production techniques will concentrate on the language of handheld camera versus tripod, interview methodologies, microphone placement including working with wireless systems and mixers, and lighting for the interview. Post-production will cover editing techniques including color correction and audio sweetening, how to prepare for exhibition, and distribution strategies.

Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): CMST 23930, HMRT 25106, or ARTV 23930

Equivalent Course(s): MAAD 23931, HMRT 35107, ARTV 33931, CMST 23931, HMRT 25107, ARTV 23931, CHST 23931

CMST 34405. Kieslowski’s French Cinema. 100 Units.

Krzysztof Kieślowski’s The Decalogue and The Double Life of Veronique catapulted the Polish director to the international scene. His subsequent French triptych Blue, White, Red turned out to be his last works that altered his image and legacy to affirm his status as an auteur and a representative of the transnational cinema. We discuss how in his virtual universe of parallel histories and repeated chances, captured with visually and aurally dazzling artistry, the possibility of reconstituting one’s identity, triggered by tragic loss and betrayal, reveals an ever-ambiguous reality. By focusing on the filmmaker’s dissolution of the thing-world, often portrayed on the verge of vague abstraction of (in)audibility or (un)transparency, this course bridges his cinema with the larger concepts of postmodern subjectivity and possibility of metaphysics. The course concludes with the filmmaker’s contribution to world cinema. All along, we read selections from Kieślowski’s and Piesiewicz’s screen scripts, Kieślowski’s own writings and interviews, as well as from the abundant criticism of his French movies. All materials are in English.

Instructor(s): Bozena Shallcross

Terms Offered: TBD

Equivalent Course(s): MAAD 23931, HMRT 35107, ARTV 33931, CMST 23931, HMRT 25107, ARTV 23931, CHST 23931

CMST 35503. Issues in Contemporary Horror. 100 Units.

This course takes the modern horror film as its object. For the purposes of this class, modern horror spans the period from 1960 to the present, although much of our attention will be directed toward the period from the 1980s to the present. We will examine key problems in the genre including, but not limited to an examination of the nature of the horrific, close formal analysis (which typically is neglected in favor of more culturally oriented approaches), questions of POV and camera movement, the articulation and construction of space, the role of gender in the genre, the changing importance of women as performers, characters, directors, and spectators, found footage/surveillance, and the genre’s address to the viewer.

Note(s): Not offered in 2022-23.

Equivalent Course(s): CMST 23930, HMRT 25106, or ARTV 23930

CMST 35601. Line, Trace, Motion: Computation and Experiment in Animation. 100 Units.

Interpreting what we mean by animation broadly, this course will investigate computational moving-image making through the lens of experimental animation. We will take as our point of departure the films of Rettinger, Ruttmann, Fischinger, McLaren, and Breer, but will also draw upon artifacts and ‘animated lines’ taken from further afield: found footage films and algorithmic editing, dance drawings of Trisha Brown, kinetic sculptures of Bit International, early plotter art, avant-garde music notation, and contemporary techniques of motion and performance capture. This course will develop theoretical lines of inquiry that run in two directions: an excavation of a ‘pre-history’ of contemporary new media and a reinterpretation / re-invigoration of our understanding of early animation. Any film production, hand-animation or computer programming experiences
are welcome - but none are prerequisites for the course. Students will be expected to complete regular short creative “sketches” of techniques culminating in a final short animated project.

Instructor(s): Marc Downie Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): MAAD 20610, CMST 25610

CMST 35954. Alternate Reality Games: Theory and Production. 100 Units.

Games are one of the most prominent and influential media of our time. This experimental course explores the emerging genre of “alternate reality” or “transmedia” gaming. Throughout the quarter, we will approach new media theory through the history, aesthetics, and design of transmedia games. These games build on the narrative strategies of novels, the performative role-playing of theater, the branching techniques of electronic literature, the procedural qualities of video games, and the team dynamics of sports. Beyond the subject matter, students will design modules of an Alternate Reality Game in small groups. Students need not have a background in media or technology, but a wide-ranging imagination, interest in new media culture, or arts practice will make for a more exciting quarter.

Instructor(s): Patrick Jagoda, Heidi Coleman Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Third- or fourth-year standing, Instructor consent required. To apply, submit writing through online form at https://www.franke.uchicago.edu/big-problems-courses; see course description. Once given consent, attendance on the first day is mandatory. Questions: mb31@uchicago.edu.

Note(s): Note(s): English majors: this course fulfills the Theory (H) distribution requirement.
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 20700, ARTV 30700, ENGL 32314, MAAD 20700, TAPS 28466, CMST 25954, BPRO 28700, ENGL 25970

CMST 36303. Chris Marker. 100 Units.

Chris Marker (1921-2012) is one of the most influential and important filmmakers to emerge in the post-war era in France, yet he remains relatively unknown to a wider audience. Marker’s multifaceted work encompasses writing, photography, filmmaking, videography, gallery installation, television, and digital multimedia. He directed over 60 films and is known foremost for his “essay films,” a hybrid of documentary and personal reflection, which he invigorated if not invented with films like Lettre de Sibérie (Letter from Siberia, 1958) or Sans Soleil (Sunless, 1983). His most famous film, La Jetée (1962), his only (science) fiction film made up almost entirely of black-and-white still photographs, was the inspiration for Terry Gilliam’s 12 Monkeys (1995). In 1990, he created his first multi-media installation, Zapping Zone, and in 1997 he experimented with the format of the CD-Rom to create a multi-layered, multimedia memoir (Immemory). In 2008, he continued his venture into digital spaces with Ouvroir, realized on the platform of Second Life. Marker was a passionate traveler who documented the journeys he took, the people he met, and revolutionary upheavals at home and afar. We will follow Marker’s travels through time, space, and media, during which we will also encounter artists with whom he crossed paths, with whom he collaborated, or who were inspired by his work.

Instructor(s): Dominique Bluher Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 26303, FNDL 26102, MAAD 13303, ARTV 20032

CMST 36405. D.W. Griffith. 100 Units.

Controversies fuel American politics and culture. One hundred years ago, Intolerance shook the world, if not the most famous, then the most the most expensive and seminal movie ever made. One hundred and one, The Birth of a Nation generated the loudest controversy on the issue of race; at the same time, its powerful suspense sequence in the finale made this movie a fundamental of action-movie filmmaking for the century to come.

Griffith came to movie industry in 1908 and dropped out of it in 1931. This course offers a quarter-of-a-century vast panorama of inventions and innovations, shames and triumphs, brilliant successes and spectacular failures connected with D.W. Griffith, the most famous pioneer in the history of film.

Equivalent Course(s): AMER 26405, FNLD 26405, AMER 36405, CMST 26405, CMST 25200, ENGL 25970

CMST 36603. The Cinema of Miloš Forman. 100 Units.

The films of Miloš Forman (1932-2018) reflect the turbulence of the 1960s, 70s, 80s and 90s, and 2000s by focusing on the underdog, the pariah, the eccentric. The subject matter to which Forman was drawn translated into his cinema with a signature bittersweet tone, emphatic narrative cogency, and lush spontaneity. This course is an intensive study of Forman’s work from his “New Wave” work in Czechoslovakia (Loves of a Blonde, The Fireman’s Ball) to his U.S. studio successes (One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, Amadeus), to his idiosyncratic and parabolic last films (Man on the Moon, Goya’s Ghosts). Among other topics, the course contemplate the value of a dark sense of humor, cinematic gorgeousness, and artistic dissidence.

Instructor(s): Malynne Sternstein Terms Offered: TBD
Equivalent Course(s): REES 22010, FNLD 22010, CMST 26603, REES 32010

CMST 36610. Eisenstein. 100 Units.

TBD
Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 26710, FNLD 26504, ARTH 36710, CMST 26610

CMST 36705. Kieslowski: The Decalogue. 100 Units.

In this class, we study the monumental series “The Decalogue” by one of the most influential filmmakers from Poland, Krzysztof Kieslowski. Without mechanically relating the films to the Ten Commandments, Kieslowski explores the relevance of the biblical moral rules to the state of modern man forced to make ethical choices. Each part of the series contests the absolutism of moral axioms through narrative twists and reversals in a wide,
universalized sphere. An analysis of the films will be accompanied by readings from Kieślowski’s own writings and interviews, including criticism by Zizek, Insdorf, and others.

Instructor(s): Bozena Shallcross
Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): CMST 26705, REES 37026, FNDL 24003, REES 27026

CMST 37007. Law and Order: Police and Procedure on the Global Screen. 100 Units.

This course will take a comparative approach to the representation of police procedure, broadly construed. On the one hand, we will look at a range of international examples from the fictional screen genre of the police procedural. Part of our focus will be on the effect that different legal institutions in different national contexts have on the representation of police procedure. On the other hand, we will be interested in various non-fictional approaches (e.g. documentaries and ethnographic studies) to the intersection between police and procedure. Of course there are innumerable approaches to thinking about the representation of police; this experimental class aims to investigate the topic exclusively through the lens of procedure. It will pose the following questions (among others): Why are procedural approaches to the representation of police work so ubiquitous? What constitutes a procedural approach to police? What is the relevant history of the police procedural? How does a comparative approach to police procedurals impact the kinds of questions a researcher asks? How useful is a genre studies approach to the police procedural?

Instructor(s): Salomé Aguiler Skvirsky
Terms Offered: Winter

Note(s): Not offered in 2022-23.

Equivalent Course(s): CMST 27007

CMST 37011. Experimental Captures. 100 Units.

This production-based class will explore the possibilities and limits of capturing the world with imaging approaches that go beyond the conventional camera. What new and experimental image-based artworks can be created with technologies such as laser scanning, structured light projection, time of flight cameras, photogrammetry, stereography, motion capture, sensor augmented cameras or light field photography? This hands-on course welcomes students with production experience while being designed to keep established tools and commercial practices off-kilter and constantly in question.

Instructor(s): M. Downie
Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): Not offered in 2022-23.

Equivalent Course(s): CMST 27011, MAAD 21011, ARTV 27923, ARTV 37923

CMST 37205. Film Aesthetics. 100 Units.

The main questions to be discussed are: the bearing of cinema on philosophy; or in what sense, if any, is cinema a form of philosophical thought? What sort of distinctive aesthetic object is a film, or what is the “ontology” of film? What, in particular, distinguishes a “realist” narrative film? What is a “Hollywood” film? What is a Hollywood genre? Authors to be read include, among others, Bazin, Cavell, Perkins, Wilson, Rothman. Films to be seen and discussed, among others, include films by Bresson, Ford, Ophuls, Cukor, Hitchcock, and the Dardenne brothers.

Instructor(s): I. Conant, R. Pippin
Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): PHIL 30208, PHIL 20208, CMST 27205, SCTH 38112

CMST 37805. Framing, Re-framing, and Un-framing Cinema. 100 Units.

By cinema, we mean the art of the moving image, which is not limited to the material support of a flexible band called film. This art reaches back to early devices to trick the eye into seeing motion and looks forward to new media and new modes of presentation. With the technological possibility of breaking images into tiny pixels and reassembling them and of viewing them in new way that this computerized image allows, we now face the most radical transformation of the moving image since the very beginnings of cinema. A collaboration between the OpenEndedGroup (Marc Downie and Paul Kaiser), artists who have created new modes of the moving image for more than decade, and film scholar Tom Gunning, this course will use this moment of new technologies to explore and expand the moving image before it becomes too rigidly determined by the powerful industrial forces now propelling it forward. This course will be intensely experimental as we see how we might use new computer algorithms to take apart and re-experience classic films of the past. By using new tools, developed for and during this class, students will make new experiences inside virtual reality environments for watching, analyzing, and recombining films and that are unlike any other. These tools will enable students, regardless of previous programming experience, to participate in this crucial technological and cultural juncture.

Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 20805, ARTV 30805, CMST 27805

CMST 37816. From Open Worlds to Angry Birds: Videogame History 2000-2010. 100 Units.

This course will trace developments in the videogame medium and videogame cultures in the first decade of the new millennium. Topics include, but are not limited to, the following: the rise and influence of the open world/sandbox genre; the spread of online gaming with Massively Multiplayer Online RPGs, networked First-Person Shooters, and virtual worlds; changes in the embodied experience of play introduced by rhythm/music games, motion controls, and touch screen interfaces; the proliferation of independent game development and online distribution; the rise of "art games" as a distinct (and debated) category; the reemergence of "retro" styles and repackaging of vintage games; the blurred boundaries of the "magic circle" and everyday life in Alternate Reality and Augmented Reality gaming; the increasing popularity of mobile and casual gaming; and the emergence of Videogame Studies as an academic field. This class will be a mix of history and historiography. We will not only
learn about the history of the decade, but also discuss the unique possibilities and difficulties arising from the study of recent history - and put these discussions into practice through research-based assignments.

Instructor(s): Christopher Carloy Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 45516, CMST 27816, MAAD 25650

CMST 37821. Economic Objects: Capitalism as Medium. 100 Units.

As we now confront an economic contraction and reconstitution of unprecedented intensity in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, a focus on the possibility of transmedial economic representation and its criticism offers a timely and necessary opportunity to consider what art is and does in our historical moment. "Economic Objects: Capitalism as Medium" explores how shifting modes of the representation of the economy reflect transformed medial practices and their critique. We seek to complicate the relationship of Marxist aesthetic theory with contemporary habits of criticism including notions of "economic performativity," debt and finance as objects of artistic analysis, and ongoing debates about the scope and logic of commodification, each of which opens up new questions about the very representability of capitalism itself. The course will be organized around a set of "economic objects," which range from proper art objects to phenomena (practices, objects, material) not conventionally belonging to the category of "art." Readings will offer students exposure to current debates in aesthetics, critical theory and economic criticism.

Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Not offered in 2022-23.
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 27821

CMST 37867. 1990s Videogame History. 100 Units.

This course will trace developments in the videogame medium and videogame cultures in the final decade of the 20th century, discuss the unique possibilities and difficulties arising from the study of recent history, and put these discussions into practice through research-based assignments. Questions that will guide our study include: what was the relationship between technological innovations and stylistic changes in the videogame medium? How did the entry of new corporate and creative players into the business affect industrial structures and strategies? What do we make of "freedom," "realism," and other concepts that dominated videogame press coverage - and how were they connected to broader cultural discourses? How did understandings of what it meant to play videogames, and the types of experiences that videogames could offer, change over the course of the decade? What was the relationship between developments in the videogame medium and other media - from film and fiction to virtual reality and the Internet? How has this decade been remembered, conceptualized, preserved, and repackaged in subsequent decades?

Instructor(s): Chris Carloy Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 27821

CMST 37870. Digital Media Aesthetics: Interaction, Connection, and Improvisation. 100 Units.

This course investigates the ways that digital and networked media have changed contemporary aesthetics, forms, storytelling practices, and cultures. Along the way, we will analyze electronic literature, Twine games, interactive dramas, video games, transmedia narratives, and more. Formally, we will explore concepts such as multilinear narrative, immersive and navigable worlds, network aesthetics, interactive difficulty, aleatory poetics, and videogame mechanics. Throughout the quarter, our analysis of computational media aesthetics will be haunted by matters of race, gender, sexuality, class, and other ghosts in the machine. Students need not be technologically gifted or savvy, but a wide-ranging imagination and interest in new media cultures will make for a more exciting quarter. (20th/21st)

Instructor(s): Patrick Jagoda Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): TAPS 34770, GNSE 34770, CMST 67870, ENGL 34770

CMST 37880. Videogame Consoles: A Platform Studies Approach. 100 Units.

While videogames' mix of art, play, and advanced technology gives game studies much of its vitality, the technological and computational aspects of the medium can be daunting for many would-be students and designers. And yet no approach to the study of videogames can be exhaustive without some consideration of the material and technological grounds that make games possible. With this in mind, this course will introduce approaches to videogame studies that emphasize the platforms - the hardware, operating systems, etc. - on which games are played, and is intended for students with all levels of familiarity with the technological side of videogames. How do the various components of game platforms, from computer architecture to controllers to the underlying code, affect how games look, sound, and feel, how they are played, who designs them and how, how they are marketed and to whom, and how they are preserved? How do platforms emerge from particular technological, industrial, social, and cultural contexts, and how do they in turn affect the course of game history and culture? Classroom lectures and discussions of readings will be accompanied by weekly gameplay sessions at the MADD Center, which will provide close, hands-on engagement with game platforms. Possible objects of study include the Atari 2600 (1977), ColecoVision (1982), Sega Game Gear (1990) and Genesis/CD/32X (1988-94), Panasonic 3DO (1993), Nintendo 64 (1996) and Wii (2006), and PlayStation 4/VR (2013-16).

Instructor(s): Christopher Carloy Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Instructor consent required.
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 27880, MAAD 17880, MAPH 37880
CMST 37887. The Platformer: History and Theory of a Videogame Genre. 100 Units.
This course will provide an introduction to genre history and theory in videogame studies through a focus on the "platformer." Though not a common name outside of videogame culture, the platformer has introduced or popularized some of the medium's most recognizable figures (Mario, Sonic the Hedgehog, Donkey Kong) and gameplay mechanics (running, jumping, avoiding enemies, and collecting items). The genre has also been instrumental in and reflective of changes across the videogame medium. This course will cover two decades (roughly 1990 - 2010), emphasizing both historical details and theoretical questions, such as: How have game genres been defined? How do distinct genres emerge and change over time? How do broader trends (technological, formal, industrial, discursive, experiential, etc.) influence individual genres, and what roles do individual genres play in these broader trends? What resources and methodologies exist for studying videogame genres? Throughout the course we'll see the platformer alternate between an emphasis on linear, acrobatic movement across two-dimensional spaces and the free exploration of three-dimensional virtual worlds; between providing mascots for the biggest game companies and becoming a marker of independent, small-team production; and between being hailed as "revolutionary" and epitomizing the retro-nostalgic. Classroom lecture and discussion of readings will be accompanied by weekly gameplay sessions on original hardware at the MADD Center.
Instructor(s): Christopher Carloy Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Instructor consent required
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 37887, CMST 27887, MAAD 17887

CMST 37911. Augmented Reality Production. 100 Units.
Focusing on experimental moving-image approaches at a crucial moment in the emerging medium of augmented reality, this class will explore and interrogate each stage of production of AR works. Students in this production-based class will examine the techniques and opportunities of this new kind of moving image. During this class we'll study the construction of examples across a gamut from locative media, journalism, and gameplay-based works to museum installations. Students will complete a series of critical essays and sketches towards a final augmented reality project using a custom set of software tools developed in and for the class.
Instructor(s): Marc Downie Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Not offered in 2022-23.
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 27921, ARTV 37921, MAAD 22911, CMST 27911

CMST 37920. Virtual Reality Production. 100 Units.
Focusing on experimental moving-image approaches at a crucial moment in the emerging medium of virtual reality, this class will explore and interrogate each stage of production for VR. By hacking their way around the barriers and conventions of current software and hardware to create new optical experiences, students will design, construct and deploy new ways of capturing the world with cameras and develop new strategies and interactive logics for placing images into virtual spaces. Underpinning these explorations will be a careful discussion, dissection and reconstruction of techniques found in the emerging VR "canon" that spans new modes of journalism and documentary, computer games, and narrative "VR cinema." Film production and computer programming experience is welcome but not a prerequisite for the course. Students will be expected to complete short "sketches" of approaches in VR towards a final short VR experience.
Instructor(s): Marc Downie Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Film production and computer programming experience is welcome but not a prerequisite for the course. Students will be expected to complete short "sketches" of approaches in VR towards a final short VR experience.
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 27920, MAAD 24920, CMST 27920, ARTV 37920

CMST 38115. The Films of Robert Bresson: Contemplative Cinema and Poetic Thinking. 100 Units.
Bresson's films are known for their minimal and highly original style, the avoidance of any reliance on theatrical conventions, the use of nonprofessional actors (“models,” he called them), unusual and “unnatural” editing techniques, distinctive pacing, and for its themes of grace, redemption, fate, moral severity, and several other philosophical and religious issues in the lives of the characters. This course will explore Bresson’s innovations as aiming at a new form of contemplative cinema, one in which style is a matter of a kind of poetic thinking (as understood by Martin Heidegger), a reflective interrogation of philosophical issues that for which traditional philosophy is inadequate. We shall watch and discuss his films: Les dames du Bois de Boulogne (1945); The Diary of a Country Priest (1951); A Man Escaped (1956); Pickpocket (1959); Au hazard Balthasar (1966); Mouchette (1967); Four Nights of a Dreamer (1971) and L’argent (1983). Readings will include, among others, Bresson’s Notes on the Cinematograph and Bresson on Bresson; Paul Schrader, The Transcendental Style in Film, selected essays about particular films, and selections from Heidegger.
Instructor(s): R. Pippin Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Consent required.
Equivalent Course(s): PHIL 28115, SCTH 38115, CMST 28115, PHIL 38115

CMST 38346. Performance Theory: Action, Affect, Archive. 100 Units.
This seminar offers a critical introduction to performance theory and its applications to theatre and other practices. We will discuss three key conceptual clusters: a) action, acting, and forms of production or play, from classical (Aristotle) through modern (Hegel, Brecht, Artaud), to contemporary (Richard Schechner, Philip Zarrilli, others); b) affect, and its intersections with emotion and feeling; in addition to contemporary theories, we will read earlier texts that anticipate recent debates (Diderot, Freud) and their current interpreters (Joseph Roach, Erin
CMST 38700. History of International Cinema, Part III: 1960 to Present. 100 Units.
This course will continue the study of cinema around the world from the late 1950s through the 1990s. We will focus on New Cinemas in France, Czechoslovakia, Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom, and other countries. We will pay special attention to experimental stylistic developments, women directors, and well-known auteurs. After the New Cinema era we will examine various developments in world cinema, including the rise of Bollywood, East Asian film cultures, and other movements.
Instructor(s): Staff
Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): This course follows the subject matter taught in CMST 28500/48500 and CMST 28600/48600, but these are not prerequisites.
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 28700, MAAD 18700

CMST 38703. Video Art: The Analog Years. Theory, Technology, Practice. 100 Units.
The course gives a critical introduction to early video and television art - from the proto-televisual impulses in the historical avant-gardes to the increasing proximity between analog and digital technologies in video art in the late 1970's and early 1980's. We will focus on the various technical aspects of analog video, as well as on artistic practice and early writings on the subject. Topics will include the technics and politics of time; video, feedback systems and ecology; the reconfiguration of the artist's studio; guerilla politics and alternative TV; video and autobiography; the relation between video and painting; the musical history of video; the invention of new machines; and video as a "television viewer".
Instructor(s): I. Blom
Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 28703, MAAD 18703, ARTH 21313, ARTH 31313

CMST 38800. Politics and Cinema under Authority. 100 Units.
Why do authoritarian regimes take interest in art and culture? How do citizens respond to these efforts? Between authoritarian propaganda and outright contestation of authoritarianism is a wide niche of art and media production that is just independent enough to capture the attention of the citizens and yet subtle enough to not alarm authoritarian rulers. This is relevant for film and television in particular, which cannot function under authoritarian regimes without official approval. In this course, we explore the compromises filmmakers make to continue their creative practice and the concessions state actors grant to accommodate artistic work using the 10-episode television series, Dekalog (1988), by the acclaimed Polish director Krzysztof Kieślowski. To answer our questions, we draw on literature and methodology from political science and film and media studies. We investigate what is to be gained by combining approaches from two disciplines that are rarely in conversation with each other.
Instructor(s): Maria Belodubrovskaya and Monika Nalepa
Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Enrollment limit: 18
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 28805, CDIN 38800, REES 28800, REES 38800, PLSC 38801, PLSC 28805, CDIN 28801

CMST 38921. Introduction to 16mm Filmmaking. 100 Units.
The goal of this intensive laboratory course is to give its students a working knowledge of film production using the 16mm gauge. The course will emphasize how students can use 16mm technology towards successful cinematography and image design (for use in both analog and digital postproduction scenarios) and how to develop their ideas towards constructing meaning through moving pictures. Through a series of group exercises, students will put their hands on equipment and solve technical and aesthetic problems, learning to operate and care for the 16mm Bolex film camera; prime lenses; Sekonic light meter; Sachtler tripod; and Arri light kit and accessories. For a final project, students will plan and produce footage for an individual or small group short film. The first half the class will be highly structured, with demonstrations, in-class shoots and lectures. As the semester continues, class time will open up to more of a workshop format to address the specific concerns and issues that arise in the production of the final projects. This course is made possible by the Charles Roven Fund for Cinema and Media Studies.
Instructor(s): Thomas Comerford
Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): Students will need written permission to enroll in the course. To bid for entry into the class, please email tcomerford@uchicago.edu with your name, major and year -- and please list any other media production or photography experience. Enrollment priority will be given to graduate and undergraduate CMS students, beginning with seniors, then to DoVA graduates and undergraduates, then to students in other departments.
Equivalent Course(s): MAAD 23808, ARTV 23808, CMST 28921, ARTV 33808
CMST 39022. Research Design and Archival Theory and Practice for Cinema and Media Studies. 100 Units.
What constitutes archival research in cinema and media studies? What role do archives play in research into and studies of media? What role does research play in shaping archival policy and practice? This course will explore the process of research on moving image media through a range of formats: the archive as space and repository, digital tools used for archival practice and access, and archival theory, questions of evidence, and the writing of history—both of and through moving images. Emphasis is on the process of research with attention to foundations of historiography, evidence, archival theory, and the various stages of writing. The course has two main threads. First, we will investigate a range of sites, practices, policies, and theoretical concerns surrounding moving image archiving. We will meet scholars and professional archivists working on a wide variety of research projects who will share their processes with us. Second, we will embark on one collective project that collaboratively weaves together multiple lines of inquiry around one topic. Drawing from traditional archives and libraries as well as engaging with digital tools, students will gain first-hand experience following the research process from discovery to identification to interpretation. From this course, students will learn how to design and implement archival research projects in cinema and media studies (with translatability to related disciplines).
Instructor(s): Allyson Field
Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Not offered in 2022-23.
Equivalent Course(s): IRHU 27011, CMST 29022, MAPH 39022

CMST 40000. Methods and Issues in Cinema Studies. 100 Units.
This course offers an introduction to ways of reading, writing on, and teaching film. The focus of discussion will range from methods of close analysis and basic concepts of film form, technique and style; through industrial/critical categories of genre and authorship (studios, stars, directors); through aspects of the cinema as a social institution, psycho-sexual apparatus and cultural practice; to the relationship between filmic texts and the historical horizon of production and reception. Films discussed will include works by Griffith, Lang, Hitchcock, Deren, Godard.
Instructor(s): Daniel Morgan
Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 33000, ARTH 39900, ENGL 48000

CMST 40651. Amateur Creativity in Modern China. 100 Units.
The ideal of the amateur author has repeatedly been invoked in different moments and for different purposes throughout the history of modern China. Non-professional writers have often been considered more "authentic"—their perceptions less hindered by conventions and more sensitive to the details of everyday life. In the socialist world, amateur writing and art was one of the strategies to contrast the division between mental and manual labor. And today, we assist to a veritable explosion made possible by digital media which fully reveals the inherent contradictions of amateur creativity. Seen by many as a means to escape oppressive labor regimes, it ends up being the most commodified form of labor of our times. This class will proceed through a series of case studies to understand the valorization of amateurism in modern Chinese culture in historical and comparative perspective. Special attention will be paid to the media environments that make it possible, and to the ways amateur writing and art depict labor. Our overall goal, in sum, will be to familiarize ourselves with some of the ways in which the relation between creativity, amateurism, and labor has been represented and theorized.
Instructor(s): P. Iovene
Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): EALC 40651

CMST 42027. New German Cinema. 100 Units.
This class will offer an intense exploration of the classical New German Cinema and some of the issues in its aesthetics, history and theory. Thus, we will see a broad variety of films (some familiar, some not so familiar: including work by R.W. Fassbinder, A. Kluge, W. Herzog, W. Wenders, H. Sanders-Brahms, U. Ottinger, J-M Straub/D Huillet, et al.) and read a broad range of material—incorporating, among others, questions of genre, auteur theory, psychoanalysis, history, politics, and film style. Proficiency in German language, culture, or history is welcome but not required (all films have subtitles); a serious commitment to thinking about the logic, rhetoric, history, and textuality of film is essential. The pace and conceptual level of the readings make this course most appropriate for graduate students.
Instructor(s): David Levin
Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): undergrads by consent only
Equivalent Course(s): GRMN 35322, GRMN 25322

CMST 42802. Media, Environment, and Risk. 100 Units.
In 1991, Ulrich Beck wrote that "society is made into a laboratory." Following the Chernobyl disaster, Beck articulated how modern technology and its potential side-effects—such as radiation or chemical poisoning—had created the novel epistemological category of environmental risk defined by threats that escape human perception and transcend borders. Institutions monitoring ecological conditions gained responsibility for communicating public health. Political conflicts emerged between formations of expert and lay environmental knowledge. The technological application of modern science, and its associated environmental risks, pushed research beyond the laboratory and into the governmental fabric of social order: nuclear reactors had to be constructed and chemicals distributed to populations before their properties and safety could be understood. This seminar reads the debates on risk in environmental sociology alongside the emergence of risk criticism in media studies to interrogate the probabilistic thinking inherent to the communication of ecological threat. Two common traits characteristic of recent environmental catastrophes ranging from Bhopal, Fukushima Daiishi, Deepwater Horizon, Exxon Valdez, Hurricane Katrina, and the varied crises of global climate change,
are that each disaster involves the failure or side-effect of an implemented technological project and that the corresponding risks—whether imperceptible or probable—are necessarily communicated to publics by media.

Instructor(s): Thomas Pringle

Equivalent Course(s): SOCI 30329, KNOW 36059, HIP 26059, MAAD 26059, CHSS 36059

CMST 43418. Surrealism and Cinema. 100 Units.

This seminar examines the relations between Surrealism and the cinema in interwar France, and the aesthetic, political, and theoretical debates produced by their encounter. To what extent may Surrealism, in its varied iterations, be productively read through the optic of cinema, and even as a cinematic movement? And to what extent is cinema an implicitly Surrealist medium? In addition to tracing a precise history of Surrealism, cinema, and its discontents during this period through works by Louis Aragon, Antonin Artaud, Georges Bataille, Walter Benjamin, André Breton, Louis Bunuel, René Clair, Joseph Cornell, Salvador Dalí, Robert Desnos, Germaine Dulac, Louis Feuillade, Sigmund Freud, Jean Painlevé and Geneviève Hamon, Jean Vigo, and others, this class explores the potential of Surrealism as a methodology for critical and theoretical studies of cinema, literature, culture, and history.

Equivalent Course(s): FREN 36218

CMST 44510. The Aesthetics of Socialist Realism. 100 Units.

Socialist Realism was declared the official mode of Soviet aesthetic culture in 1934. Though it has been dismissed within the totalitarian model as propaganda or kitsch, this seminar will approach it from the perspective of its aesthetics. By this we mean not only its visual or literary styles, but also its sensory or haptic address to its audiences. Our premise is that the aesthetic system of Socialist Realism was not simply derivative or repressive, but developed novel techniques of transmission and communication; marked by a constant theoretical reflection on artistic practice, Socialist Realism redefined the relationship between artistic and other forms of knowledge, such as science. Operating in an economy of art production and consumption diametrically opposed to the Western art market, Socialist Realism challenged the basic assumptions of Western artistic discourse, including the concept of the avant-garde. It might even be said to offer an alternate model of revolutionary cultural practice, involving the chronicling and producing of a non-capitalist form of modernity. The seminar will focus on Soviet visual art, cinema and fiction during the crucial period of the 1930s under Stalin (with readings available in translation), but we welcome students with relevant research interests that extend beyond these parameters. Conducted jointly by professors Robert Bird (Slavic and Cinemaand Media Studies, University of Chicago) and Christina Kiaer, Art History, Northwestern University, course meetings will be divided evenly between the campuses of Northwestern Univ/Socialist Realism was declared the official mode of Soviet aesthetic culture in 1934. Though it has been dismissed within the totalitarian model as propaganda or kitsch, this seminar will approach it from the perspective of its aesthetics. By this we mean not only its visual or literary styles, but also its sensory or haptic address to its audiences. Our premise is that the aesthetic system of Socialist Realism was not simply derivative or repressive, but developed novel techniques of transmission and communication; marked by a constant theoretical reflection on artistic practice, Socialist Realism redefined the relationship between artistic and other forms of knowledge, such as science. Operating in an economy of art production and consumption diametrically opposed to the Western art market, Socialist Realism challenged the basic assumptions of Western artistic discourse, including the concept of the avant-garde. It might even be said to offer an alternate model of revolutionary cultural practice, involving the chronicling and producing of a non-capitalist form of modernity. The seminar will focus on Soviet visual art, cinema and fiction during the crucial period of the 1930s under Stalin (with readings available in translation), but we welcome students with relevant research interests that extend beyond these parameters. Conducted jointly by professors Robert Bird (Slavic and Cinemaand Media Studies, University of Chicago) and Christina Kiaer, Art History, Northwestern Univ.

Instructor(s): Robert Bird

Terms Offered: TBD

Equivalent Course(s): FREN 36218

CMST 44601. Opera Film: China / Europe: Thinking Media Hybridity across Cases. 100 Units.

This seminar will explore the mutual attraction of cinema and opera across the two vast operatic cultures of Europe and China in order to interrogate the many cross-cultural issues that their media encounters produce and accentuate. Such issues include changing relations to myth, ritual, history, and politics; cross-dressing and gender-bending; closed forms or open; stock characters wand plots or narrative fluidity. We will ask why in both China and Europe, opera repeatedly became the conflicted site of nationalist and modernizing aspirations, reiterations of tradition, and attempts at avant-gardism. When the presumed realism of film meets the extravagant hyperperformativity of opera, the encounter produces some extraordinary third kinds-media hybrids. Film repeatedly wrestled with the inherent histrionics of opera through the use of such devices as close-ups, camera angles, shot reverse shot, displacement of sound from sight, acousmatic sound, and trick photography. Such devices were generally meant to suture the supposed improbabilities of the operatic art form, incongruities often based on extravagant and transcendent relationships to realism. Such cinematic renderings of opera are highly revealing of fundamental faultlines in the genres themselves and revealing of the cultures that produced them.

Instructor(s): J. Zeitlin and M. Feldman

Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): ITAL 41419, CDIN 41401, TAPS 41401, EALC 41401, MUSI 45019

CMST 47007. Seeing and Knowing. 100 Units.

The concept of visuality attends to the ways in which things become seeable, knowable, and governable. Scholars who study optical instruments, architecture, cinema, and media have done much to show us how visual...
technologies change our ways of seeing. Others in the history of science study how practices of observation transform our understanding of nature-and ourselves. This comparative course analyzes regimes of visuality in different cultural and historical contexts. After a short introduction on the philosophy of visual experience and psychology of visual perception, we will investigate a series of configurations of seeing and knowing. These sites range from the history of disability to contemporary climate science, and students will be asked to contribute visual topics from their own research or disciplines for collective exploration in our seminar. Through comparative study, we will work to develop new categories or relationships for linking perception and knowledge.

Instructor(s): Alex Campolo
Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): CHSS 40307, KNOW 40307, ARTH 40307

CMST 47801. Media Archæology vs. Media Aesthetics. 100 Units.

The course stages an encounter between media archæology and media aesthetics, two distinct but related research perspectives that are at times seen as incommensurable approaches to the media technological environment. Media archæology focuses on the non-human agencies and complex machinic arrangements that are at work in technologies whose microtemporal operations cannot be grasped by human perception: media archæology typically refuses phenomenological approaches. In contrast, media aesthetics focuses on the phenomenological interface between machine systems and human perception and sensation, and various forms of cultural and political negotiations of a lifeworld that is increasingly dominated by technologies that both store and produce time. We will read key texts from both fields and discuss how we may understand their differences as well as their points of intersection.

Instructor(s): I. Blom
Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Students must attend 1st class to confirm enrollment.
Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 41313

CMST 47803. The Body of Cinema: Hypnoses, Emotions, Animalities. 100 Units.

TBD
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 27803, ENGL 37803

CMST 48108. Film, Music, Emotion. 100 Units.

This course explores the role of emotions in movies. Films represent emotions, such as the feelings of a character; and they elicit emotions in viewers, making it part of their cinematic experience. Cinematic emotions are often constitutive of genre, ranging from the laughter in slapstick comedy to cathartic tears in melodrama. While film has long been scrutinized for the visual representation of emotions (for example with the close-up of a face), sound and music are vital contributors to representing and eliciting emotions. This seminar will focus on a series of films that mix emotions in order to express social dilemmas and dramatic conflict, often connected to issues of gender, sexual, and racial identity. Films discussed range from Stella Dallas (1937) and Imitation of Life (1937) to Moonlight (2016) and Parasite (2019). Readings will include scholarship in film studies, affect theory, and some empirical research in cognitive and social psychology. Participants will take turns in functioning as "experts" for select class sessions by preparing readings and objects for class discussion. In weeks 7-10, the seminar will partly focus on objects and research pertinent to participants’ research papers, which will be presented at a mini-conference in Week 11.

Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): Open for MAPH students only.
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 48108

CMST 48210. Data Driven Documentary. 100 Units.

TBD
Instructor(s): Marc Downie
Terms Offered: Spring

CMST 48500-48600. History of International Cinema I-II.

This sequence is required of students majoring in Cinema and Media Studies. Taking these courses in sequence is strongly recommended but not required.

CMST 48500. History of International Cinema I: Silent Era. 100 Units.

This course provides a survey of the history of cinema from its emergence in the mid-1890s to the transition to sound in the late 1920s. We will examine the cinema as a set of aesthetic, social, technological, national, cultural, and industrial practices as they were exercised and developed during this 30-year span. Especially important for our examination will be the exchange of film techniques, practices, and cultures in an international context. We will also pursue questions related to the historiography of the cinema, and examine early attempts to theorize and account for the cinema as an artistic and social phenomenon.

Instructor(s): Allyson Field
Prerequisite(s): Prior or concurrent registration in CMST 10100 is required. Course is required for students majoring or minoring in Cinema and Media Studies.
Note(s): For students majoring in Cinema and Media Studies, the entire History of International Cinema three-course sequence must be taken.
Equivalent Course(s): MAPH 33600, CMLT 32400, MAAD 18500, ARTH 28500, ARTV 20002, ARTH 38500, CMST 28500, ENGL 29300, ENGL 48700, CMLT 22400
CMST 48600. History of International Cinema II: Sound Era to 1960. 100 Units.
The center of this course is film style, from the classical scene breakdown to the introduction of deep focus, stylistic experimentation, and technical innovation (sound, wide screen, location shooting). The development of a film culture is also discussed. Texts include Thompson and Bordwell’s Film History: An Introduction; and works by Bazin, Belton, Sitney, and Godard. Screenings include films by Hitchcock, Welles, Rossellini, Bresson, Ozu, Antonioni, and Renoir.
Instructor(s): Daniel Morgan Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Prior or concurrent registration in CMST 10100 required. Required of students majoring or minoring in Cinema and Media Studies.
Note(s): CMST 28500/48500 strongly recommended
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 32500, CMST 28600, ARTH 38600, ARTH 28600, MAAD 18600, REES 45005, CMLT 22500, ARTV 20003, MAPH 33700, ENGL 48900, REES 28500, ENGL 29600

CMST 53500. Guillotine / Barricade: Figures of History Across Media. 100 Units.
Taking up the French historical technologies of the guillotine and the barricade, this doctoral seminar explores the history of political spectacle; violence, death, and resistance as also part of a history of figuration-conceptualized by Julia Kristeva as the establishment of a relation between two historical realities-across media. We will examine the actual materials and practices of the guillotine and the barricade alongside literary, artistic, and filmic works that deploy the figural logic of both technologies as part of their formal, representational, and/or political articulation. This seminar thus seeks to examine the methodological stakes of inter-medial and interdisciplinary history and historiography that draws equally from French history, literature, visual art (including sculpture), architecture, and film. This class will be taught in English; French reading and research skills are not necessary, but would be beneficial.
Instructor(s): J. Wild Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): FREN 43501, CDIN 53500

CMST 57200. Film Semiotics: Toward a Linguistic Anthropology of Cinema. 100 Units.
In this seminar we explore a series of topics in the semiotics of film as approached through the semiotic theory developed out of linguistic anthropology: topics will include revisiting questions of structuralist film semiology; iconicity, textuality, and the poetic function; indexicality and ontology; deixis and enunciation; voicing and structures of looking; performativity and image-acts; aesthetic style and enregisterment; rigid designation and stardom. The larger aims of the course are two-fold: one, to articulate a pragmaticist account of the eventual semiotics of cinema as institutional and textual form-as broached both through ethnographic and close textual methods of analysis-and in doing reconceptualize certain key film theoretic issues; two, to expand and rethink linguistic anthropology’s semiotic theory and analysis beyond language/through cinema; in short, to think both film studies and linguistic anthropology with and against each other so as to further a semiotics of moving images.
Instructor(s): Constantine V. Nakassis Terms Offered: Spring. Spring 2023
Prerequisite(s): Undergraduates by Consent.
Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 57400

CMST 58910. Aesthetics and Politics. 100 Units.
Aesthetics and Politics: Adorno, Benjamin, Bloch, Brecht, Lowenthal, Lukacs, … This PhD seminar will build on the work covered in Marxism and Modern Culture to examine in more detail and where possible in the original German the arguments about the intersections and frictions between aesthetics and politics in high, middle, and mass cultural forms of literature, performance, film and other media, in the work of the above theorists.
Instructor(s): Loren Kruger Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): PhD Seminar: Marxism or equivalent grad training; German desirable
Note(s): Consent required, please email the professor, Loren Kruger (lkruger@uchicago.edu) by Friday, March 17th with details about your program, and preparation to take the course.
Equivalent Course(s): TAPS 58910, ENGL 58910, CMLT 58910

CMST 59900. Reading and Research, CMST. 100 Units.
This course is intended for graduate students in the Cinema and Media Studies program to take independent study with a faculty member. The subject matter, course of study, and individual requirements must be arranged with the instructor prior to registration.

CMST 60990. Independent Study. 100 Units.
Independent study offered for a quality grade.
Instructor(s): Allyson Field Terms Offered: Winter

CMST 61001. Black Film as Art / Black Art as Film. 100 Units.
The aesthetic dimensions of “Black film” tend to be subordinated to historical, social and political lines of inquiry - histories of “art film” tend not to include works by Black artists. This seminar foregrounds questions of form and style in film and video works by a wide range Black artists in order to develop new ways of understanding the complex, mutually constitutive relations between Blackness and the moving image. We will pursue experimental practices by Black film and video makers - beginning in the era of segregated “race film” production of the 1910s-40s, considering moments of stylistic experimentation in the narrative films of Micheaux, Maurice and Williams. We then discuss later film and videomakers who work more consistently and explicitly in experimental modes - the second category includes film and video works by Black visual and performance...
artists who exhibit in gallery and museum contexts. Along the way, we will discuss intersections with vanguard practices in related art forms, curatorial efforts, and movements between the art world and the film industry.

**CMST 61102. The L.A. Rebellion and the Politics of Black Cinema. 100 Units.**
TBD
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 61102

**CMST 61120. Issues and Aesthetics in Contemporary Black Film. 100 Units.**
This course considers innovations and trends in Black film aesthetics and politics over the past twenty years. We will focus specifically on their implications for film theory and criticism.
Instructor(s): Kara Keeling Terms Offered: Winter

**CMST 64904. Remapping New Waves: New Cinemas, Film Theory and Criticism in Japan. 100 Units.**
We have recently seen a growing number of works that aimed at a broader and renewed understanding of the new cinemas of the 1960s in Japan, with more complex accounts of the historical, geographical, and geopolitical trajectory of the Japanese New Wave. Ongoing investigations have largely ascribed its rise to Oshima Nagisa, the central figure in the publicity-driven phenomenon known as the "Shōchiku Nouvelle Vague" (Nūberu Ba2gu). Amidst these new scholarly texts, there are still a series of theoretical and historical/historiographical questions that have remained underexplored: where did the Japanese New Wave come from, and what actually constituted it? How did the emergence of the new cinema intersect with larger media, social, and intellectual history? Did the cinematic medium have to be radicalized in order to become 'new'? How was such 'newness' visualized, accoutsticized, and registered by other sensory cues in the cinema? How was the emergence of the new cinema in dialogue with institutions? Placing films in the contexts of the era's media-scape, this course will delve into an analytical reconsideration of this rich period of Japanese cinema specifically from the perspective of the Japanese New Wave. While we will aim to capture the exhilaration of the Japanese New Wave by closely analyzing existing studies on some of its key makers and their works, special attention will be given to what has been left out of the category as it is conventionally understood, such as educational and industrial films. All required readings are in English. Participants with reading ability in Japanese will be asked to take on additional readings in Japanese and present on them in class.
Equivalent Course(s): EALC 44904

**CMST 65500. Horror and Beyond. 100 Units.**
All films are horror films. Film's spectrality had been a given since the earliest days of its existence, as it exists as the captured shadows of people and things no longer present. Joining photographs, the telegraph, the telephone, and the phonograph, film immediately presented itself as a kind of sense-memory that could present the traces of those not present, and even, traces of the dead. Nipper's perch on the coffin of his owner, reacting to his very live voice, sets the stage for Edison to announce the kinetograph, which "would do for the eye what the phonograph had done for the ear." That is, it would bring us into the uncanny presence of a world beyond the reach of our unaided senses. In this context, horror would seem to lay claim to being a "cine-genre," as defined by Pitorofsky - a genre that deals with fundamental properties of the medium. Throughout its history, and even its pre-history horror films have mediated our encounters with the non-human: technology, the dead, the world of creatures, and our bodies, to the extent that they do not belong to us. Terror, disgust, shock, trauma, and the uncanny all find their expression in horror films, and this course aims to explore how the horror film has explored the uncanny; animism, "primitive" thought, evil, the mind and the body's relationship to technology, climate change, and the world considered as excluding humans. As Benjamin once said, "It is a different nature that speaks to the camera than to the eye."
Instructor(s): James Lastra Terms Offered: Autumn

**CMST 67006. Cognitive Approaches to Spectatorship. 100 Units.**
This course provides an overview of cognitive approaches to film and media spectatorship to date. It reviews theories of perception, emotion, and cognitive processing as they relate to film viewing and appropriation, and specifically: cognitive theories of human emotions; how film viewing engages body and mind; cognitive approaches to analyzing storytelling and style; cognitive games films play with us; and the theories of attention, identification, and ideological persuasion.
Instructor(s): Maria Belodubrovskaya Terms Offered: Autumn

**CMST 67021. Performance Captured. 100 Units.**
Technologies that turn human action, appearance and performance into data for storage, transformation and redisplay have a long history inside and outside of moving image arts. This class will look at the opportunities, aesthetics and politics of these approaches running through contemporary special effects, traditional and experimental animation, dance on camera and live performance at a moment when boundaries between these categories have become especially porous.
Instructor(s): Marc Downie Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Not offered in 2022-23.
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 27021, MAAD 20721

**CMST 67035. Framing, Reframing, Unframing Cinema. 100 Units.**
This class combines three emerging ways of looking at cinema: a continuously growing barrage of AI-based algorithms that seek to unlock data latent in images; existing films and digital archives of moving image material; and tools and programming environments oriented towards the construction of new moving-image works,
viewing situations and logics. At a time when we are perhaps further away from the stable objects of cinema than we have ever been, when digital streaming repackages and recomposes film in front of our very eyes, or when virtual, augmented and mixed realities embed and dissolve cinema’s frames in new and virtual spaces, what new positive opportunities for scholarship and creation can we find? This class is open to graduate students regardless of their production, coding, film-making experience. If you have any curiosity around the potentials and mechanisms of computers seeing us, seeing our film and video, helping navigate and bootstrap new digital humanities approaches or curiosities that shade quantitative or algorithmic, join us in this class - there’s important work to be started here.

Instructor(s): Marc Downie Terms Offered: Spring

CMST 67210. The Cinematic Camera and the Single-shot Film. 100 Units.
This course hopes to interrogate the specificities of the cinematic camera by paring the variables down to single-shot films. We will examine the idea of the cinematic dispositif or “apparatus” and ask whether there is such a thing as the camera rather than a multiplicity of cameras. We will address the persistence of animism in film theory and criticism, attempts to define the quiddity of the filmed image, analogies between human and creaturely perception, machine vision, forms and logics of picturing and pictorial organization. We will also take the opportunity to examine acoustic analogs (the microphone, the recording) in order to help us understand the logics and the fallacies at work in our basic analytic concepts. Our film viewing will concentrate upon very early cinema (the Lumières, Edison, etc.) and on the avant-garde (Warhol, Snow, Gottheim, Jacobs, Gehr, etc.). Along the way, we will examine some mainstream films like Rope and Russian Ark, or Birdman.

Instructor(s): Jim Lastra Terms Offered: Spring

CMST 67211. What Was Mise-en-scène? 100 Units.
Mise-en-scène is often understood as a synonym for the act of directing, especially in theater. In film style it is associated with the importance accorded to the placement of props and characters within the film frame, usually in combination with camera movement. This concept was especially important in film criticism of the fifties and sixties and often connected with key post-WWII filmmakers such as Nicholas Ray, Douglas Sirk and Otto Preminger. This seminar will explore the concept both as historical critical concept, and as an ongoing way to discuss the nature of film style.

Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 47211

CMST 67221. Postcolonial Theory. 100 Units.
An introduction to postcolonial theory; its rise in the Anglophone academy; overlaps with critical race studies, feminist theory, indigenous studies. I will conclude with the recent planetary turn in postcolonial studies.

Instructor(s): Rochona Majumdar Terms Offered: Spring

CMST 67234. The New Formalisms. 100 Units.
This graduate seminar investigates a range of recent works that aim to create new models of formal analysis. The subject matter will be wide-ranging, covering literary studies (e.g., surface reading), art history, and cinema and media studies. We’ll focus in particular on the way that debates over form resonate with broader philosophical and theoretical problems.

Instructor(s): Daniel Morgan Terms Offered: Spring

CMST 67321. Philosophy and Experimental Film. 100 Units.
The interest of postwar North American experimental filmmakers in philosophy is well-known, for example Stan Brakhage’s interest in Ludwig Wittgenstein, Maya Deren’s appeals to Henri Bergson, or Hollis Frampton’s writings on Gödel’s incompleteness theorem. In this seminar, we will closely watch a selection of important experimental films accompanied by filmmakers’ writings and associated texts by philosophers such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Gilles Deleuze, Stanley Cavell, and others. Our central question will be: how do experimental filmmakers practice philosophy in their creative work?

Instructor(s): D. N. Rodowick Terms Offered: Spring

CMST 67804. Media Ecology. 100 Units.
Studies of media in recent years have increasingly turned toward questions about ecologies and environments, energy and elemental forces, relational theories and non-discrete objects. The first aim of this seminar is to introduce some of the key problematics associated with this ‘turn’ in media studies. At the same time, due to the proliferation of turns (elemental, environmental, ecological, energetic), objects (media forms, devices, platforms, networks, infrastructures) and concerns (more-than-human life, settler colonialism, indigenous struggles, migration), this seminar aims to provide a practical focus for doing media ecology and thinking media ecologically. The problematic for fall 2022 is Plant Media or “thinking with plants through media.” Topics includes contemporary research on plant intelligence, which raises questions about intelligence without physical correlates, forcing us to deal with intelligence in terms of the whole plant as an ecology. We will also consider the mediating role of media, from self-writing plants to time-lapse audio and video to parse movement as intelligence. Finally, this ecological approach encourages a reconsideration of eco-agriculture and alternative paths of cultivation.

Instructor(s): Thomas Lamarre Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): EALC 67804
CMST 67830. What’s New in New Media. 100 Units.
This seminar explores new writing on the topic of new media, digital technology, and new practices of image-making. We'll explore a range of different theoretical texts, but also explore recent writing on some of the following topics: media infrastructures; the materiality of media; techniques and technologies of image-making (3D, VR, animation); video games; media archeology; race and media; the politics of social media; queer theory and media studies; and the internationalization of debates on media. We’ll look at writers such as: Nicole Starosielski; Melody Jue; Yak Hui; Kara Keeling; Lisa Nakamura; Lisa Parks; Wendy Hui Kyong Chun; Andrew Johnston; Ina Blom; Patrick Jagoda; Kris Cohen; Shane Denson; Brooke Belisle; and others.
Instructor(s): Daniel Morgan Terms Offered: Winter

CMST 67870. Digital Media Aesthetics: Interaction, Connection, and Improvisation. 100 Units.
This course investigates the ways that digital and networked media have changed contemporary aesthetics, forms, storytelling practices, and cultures. Along the way, we'll analyze electronic literature, Twine games, interactive dramas, video games, transmedia narratives, and more. Formally, we will explore concepts such as multilinear narrative, immersive and navigable worlds, network aesthetics, interactive difficulty, aleatory poetics, and videogame mechanics. Throughout the quarter, our analysis of computational media aesthetics will be haunted by matters of race, gender, sexuality, class, and other ghosts in the machine. Students need not be technologically gifted or savvy, but a wide-ranging imagination and interest in new media cultures will make for a more exciting quarter. (20th/21st)
Instructor(s): Patrick Jagoda Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): TAPS 34770, GNSE 34770, CMST 37870, ENGL 34770

CMST 68400. Style and Performance from Stage to Screen. 100 Units.
Actor is the oldest profession among arts. Cinema is the youngest art there is. What happens with faces, gestures, monologues, and voices; ancient skills like dance or mime; grand histrionics etc. when arts of performance hit the medium of screen? This course will focus on the history of acting styles in silent films, mapping "national" styles of acting that emerged during the 1910s (American, Danish, Italian, Russian) and various "acting schools" that proliferated during the 1920s ("Expressionist acting," "Kuleshov's Workshop," et al.). We will discuss film acting in the context of various systems of stage acting (Delsarte, Stanislavsky, Meyerhold) and the visual arts.
Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 48905

CMST 69002. Cinema and Labor. 100 Units.
TBD

CMST 69110. The Archive: Materiality, Aesthetics, Visual Culture. 100 Units.
This graduate seminar will prepare students to conduct archival research, and to build a research archive from different historical, methodological, and theoretical perspectives. While we will engage a range of texts on archival methodology, theory, and the phenomenology of the archive, we will also examine questions concerning aesthetics, materiality, visual culture, and the digital that inform our understanding of archives today. The seminar will be partially organized around case studies that foreground different archival modes of discovery, evaluation, and interpretation-including those that constitute the "counter archive." Students will learn practical skills for conducting research in filmic, paper and print, and internet archives, and develop the investigative, analytical abilities that are necessary for building an archive around either material objects or theoretical questions.
Instructor(s): Jennifer Wild Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 49700, FREN 49100

CMST 69901. The Films of Ozu Yasujiro. 100 Units.
This course explores Ozu Yasujiro's works from both national and transnational perspectives. Through an intense examination of Ozu's robust film making career, from the student comedies of the late 1920s to the family drama (in Agfacolor) of the early 1960s, we will locate Ozu's works at a dialogic focal point of Japanese, East Asian, American, and European cinema.

CMST 70000. Advanced Study: Cinema & Media Studies. 300.00 Units.
Advanced Study: Cinema & Media Studies