

## Curriculum Change Proposal: Curricular revisions to

Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts

Film Curriculum contact: Paige Piper, [piper.92@osu.edu](mailto:piper.92@osu.edu)

DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW	Approval Date
Film Studies Advisory <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Faculty proposal approved.</li><li>• Advancement to department committee.</li></ul>	<b>March 14, 2023</b>
Theatre, Film, and Media Arts Undergraduate Studies Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Favorable vote by committee (<i>unanimous vote</i>).</li></ul>	<b>March 27, 2023</b>
Advancement to the College of Arts and Sciences	<b>Submitted for review: March 31, 2023</b>

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**1. LETTER FROM CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE, FILM, AND MEDIA ARTS**

Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts

1089 Drake Performance and Event Center  
1849 Cannon Drive  
Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-5821  
theatreandfilm@osu.edu

March 27, 2023

To the Council on Academic Affairs,

The Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts wishes to advance a proposal to reduce the credit hour requirements of the existing Screenwriting minor. I support this requested change, which would reduce the minor from 18 credit hours to 15 credit hours, as justified in the attached proposal.

This proposed change would reduce three credit hours in the minor by removing the category of "Advanced Film Studies" course in the Screenwriting minor. This would reduce enrollment issues and time-to-degree pinch points minors currently face, while maximizing students' ability to focus on more in-depth engagement in their Screenwriting and Storytelling components of the minor. The minor would still include the introduction to Film Studies that is currently part of the minor coursework and would only reduce offerings by one Film Studies class.

These changes have been proposed and reviewed by the Film Studies Advisory Council, comprised of core Film Studies faculty. These changes were also voted upon favorably and unanimously for adoption by the Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts Undergraduate Studies Committee. The department supports this proposed change.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



**E.J. Westlake**  
Professor and Chair,  
Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts

**DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE, FILM, AND MEDIA ARTS**

**CURRICULAR PROPOSAL TO AMEND CREDIT HOURS OF EXISTING SCREENWRITING MINOR**

Administered by the Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts, the Screenwriting Minor combines theory and practice to prepare students to develop original stories, scripts, and screenplays for production as works of moving-image art. The Screenwriting minor integrates creative practice with critical study. In addition to developing skills for writing for the screen in a variety of forms, students garner a foundational understanding of film history and theory and of storytelling conventions across media. Through this in-depth study of the art of screenwriting, students will be able to hone their own distinct voices, gaining crucial professional experience for careers in film and television writing.

**DETAILS OF PROPOSED CHANGE:**

**Current:** Students are currently required to complete **18 credit hours** to complete a Screenwriting Minor, by selecting courses under the following categories:

- I. Introduction to Film Studies (3 credit hours)
- II. Introduction to Storytelling (3 credit hours)
- III. Advanced Film Studies (3 credit hours)**
- IV. Screenwriting Concentration
  - a. Introduction to Development Course: (3 hours)
  - b. Introduction to Screenwriting Course: (3 hours)
  - c. Business of Screenwriting Course (3 hours)

**Proposed:** Reduction of 3 CH in the minor, bringing total to **15 credit hours**. This would be effectuated by removal of the “Advanced Film Studies course” requirement (3 CH) in the minor.

Effective start date: changes to the minor would be effective for incoming and current students, with immediate implementation following CAA approval.

**Minor course selections would be updated to the following categories for 15 CH total:**

- I. Introduction to Film Studies (3 credit hours)
- II. Introduction to Storytelling (3 credit hours)
- III. Screenwriting Concentration
  - a. Introduction to Development Course: (3 hours)
  - b. Introduction to Screenwriting Course: (3 hours)
  - c. Business of Screenwriting Course (3 hours)

The Screenwriting minor currently has 41 declared Screenwriting minors, up from 30 minors in AY 21-22, and 19 minors the previous year. This growth trend is consistent with an increase in Film Studies enrollments, in general. We have determined that the number and classification of credit hours in the minor currently presents an obstacle for many students seeking to pursue the screenwriting minor, specifically in the 3 CH category of “Advanced Film Studies course.”

The “Advanced Film Studies” course requirement category is comprised of six Film Studies courses. Screenwriting minor students are currently required to select one of the options to fulfill the Advanced Film Studies course:

- **FILM STUDIES 3660:** Documentary Film Studies (*frequently enrolled at capacity, requirement of FS major*).
- **FILM STUDIES 4580:** Studies in a Major Director (*only offered once every three years in rotation*).
- **FILM STUDIES 4640:** Studies in Cinema History (*only offered once every three years in rotation*).
- **FILM STUDIES 4650:** Studies in Regional Cinema (*only offered every three years in rotation*).
- **FILM STUDIES 4670H:** Cinema and the Historical Avant-Garde (*offered infrequently*).
- **FILM STUDIES 4895:** Senior Seminar (*frequently enrolled at capacity, requirement of FS major*).

Of this list of options from which Screenwriting minors select, multiple courses are infrequently offered (due to resource/staffing limitations), while others are routinely overenrolled, as they are also requirements of the Film Studies major. Because the major in Film Studies is also growing exponentially (rising from 97 to 131 majors in AY 22-23, following a 6-year trend of growth in the major, and projected to continue with next year’s incoming freshman class), seats in this area will become even more competitive, and thus prohibitive of students completing the Screenwriting minor in a timely manner.

**BENEFITS:**

- The proposed reduction from 18 to 15 credit hours will allow students to complete the minor without relying on academic petitions and one-time offerings for substitutions within the category, as is occurring currently.
- This change will also free up seats in the list of FILMSTD “Advanced Film Studies Courses” that are needed for the Film Studies majors and Film Studies minors.
- This change would not impact enrollments or seat capacity in other academic units, as the proposed category of removal only impacts FILMSTD courses.
- The resulting credit hour reduction for our minors will bring our total requirements to 15 credit hours, aligned with other minor programs in our college of 12-15 credits (which will reduce time-to-degree issues for minors, and allow students to sign up for the minor who might have otherwise been unable to declare, due to scheduling difficulties).

**Changes to the minor would be effective for incoming and current students, upon approval.**

The Ohio State University  
College of Arts and Sciences

Screenwriting Minor

Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts  
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1849 Cannon Drive  
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1266  
E-Mail: [theatreandfilm@osu.edu](mailto:theatreandfilm@osu.edu)

Combining theory and practice, the Screenwriting Minor prepares students to develop original stories, scripts, and screenplays for production as works of moving-image art. This minor integrates creative practice with critical study, developing skills for writing for the screen in a variety of forms: fictional narrative film, experimental film, documentary, animation, television, and/or new media. Students will garner a foundational understanding of film history, theory, and storytelling conventions across media, to hone their distinct voice and gain crucial professional experience for careers in film and television writing.

**A Screenwriting minor requires the completion of 18 credit hours spread across:**

- 1 Introduction to Film Studies course (3 CH)
- 1 Introduction to Storytelling course (3CH)
- 1 Advanced Film Studies course (3CH)
- 3 courses in Screenwriting Concentration (9CH)

Once all courses for the minor program have been completed, students must file Checklist for Minor Form with the Film Studies and Moving-Image Production Academic Advisor, Emily Carpenter.438. The minor program form must be filed before graduation application is submitted.

**INTRODUCTION TO FILM STUDIES COURSES (3 credit hours):**

Courses in this area focus on critical engagement with the cinema, the history of film, and Choose one course: understanding film as a cultural phenomenon.

**Choose one course:**

ENGLISH 2263: Introduction to Film  
FILMSTD 2270 - Introduction to Film Studies (for non-majors)  
FILMSTD 2271 - Introduction to Film Studies for Majors  
HISTART 2901: Introduction to World Cinema  
ACCAD 3350: The History & Theory of Animation

**INTRODUCTION TO STORYTELLING COURSES (3 credit hours):**

Students should choose a course that will help them explore writing styles that will aid them in the creation of specific types of screenplays. Options include exploring classic writing styles, writing fiction, or pursuing digital media composition.

**Choose one course:**

ENGLISH 2220: Introduction to Shakespeare  
ENGLISH 2261: Introduction to Fiction  
ENGLISH 2262: Introduction to Drama  
ENGLISH 2265: Writing of Fiction 1  
ENGLISH 2268: Writing of Creative Nonfiction 1  
ENGLISH 2269: Digital Media Composing  
ENGLISH 4559: Introduction to Narrative and Narrative Theory  
THEATRE 3731: Theatre Histories and Literatures

**ADVANCED FILM STUDIES COURSES (3 credit hours):**

Students should select a course that will allow them to study a mode of film production, the style of a specific director, or a regional cinema. **Choose one course:**

FILMSTD 3660: Documentary Film Studies  
FILMSTD 4580: Studies in a Major Director  
FILMSTD 4640: Studies in Cinema History  
FILMSTD 4650: Studies in Regional Cinema  
FILMSTD 4670H: Cinema and the Historical Avant-Garde  
FILMSTD 4895: Senior Seminar in Film Studies

**SCREENWRITING CONCENTRATION (9 credit hours):**

The screenwriting concentration of the minor helps students move through multiple stages of screenwriting, from developing a story, creating a cinematic world, writing a short film script, understanding the business of being a screenwriter and writing a feature length screenplay.

**INTRODUCTION TO DEVELOPMENT COURSE:**

FILMSTD 4800: Story Development for Film and Television

**INTRODUCTION TO SCREENWRITING COURSE:**

THEATRE 5331: Screenwriting

**BUSINESS OF SCREENWRITING COURSE Choose one:**

FILMSTD 4880: Screenwriting and the Business of Cinema  
FILMSTD 4881: Screenwriting and the Business of Television

**Screenwriting minor program guidelines**

**18 Credit hours required:**

- Transfer and EM credit hours allowed. Student is permitted to count up to 6 total hours of transfer credit and/or credit by examination.
- Overlap with GE: Student is permitted to overlap up to 6 credit hours between GE and minor.
- Overlap with major and additional minor(s): minor must be in a different subject than major. Minor must contain a minimum of 12 hours distinct from major and/or additional minor(s).
- Prerequisites: Some advanced courses included in minor have prerequisites; check with advisor for information. • X193 credits: No more than 3 CH.

**Grades required:**

- Minimum C- grade for course to be listed on minor.
- Minimum 2.00 cumulative GPA for all minor course work
- Course work graded Pass/Non-Pass cannot count toward minor.
- No more than 3 credit hours of coursework graded *Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory* may count toward minor.

**Approval required:**

- Minor course work must be approved by Film Studies Academic Advisor, Emily Carpenter.438.
- Minor program form must be filed prior to graduation application submission. • Changes to minor: Once minor program is filed in the college office, any changes must be approved by Academic Advisor, Emily Carpenter.438.

College of Arts and Sciences  
Curriculum and Assessment Services  
306 Dulles Hall, 230 Annie & John Glenn Ave.  
<http://artsandsciences.osu.edu>  
Approved CAA 7-6-16  
PMP 3.31.21  
DH 3-31-21  
DH 6-9-21B  
RLS 03-21-2023

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