

CINEMA

Departmental Guidelines

The Department of Cinema's curriculum requires courses in both cinema studies and in film/digital production. Cinema majors and minors are strongly encouraged to complete at least CINE 104 - Film Aesthetics and Analysis and CINE 221 - Elementary Cinema Production during the first year, and CINE 225 - History of Cinema and CINE 230 - Intermediate Cinema Production by the end of their sophomore year. Cinema majors are also urged to select a faculty member in the Department of Cinema as their advisor.

Mission Statement

The Department of Cinema is devoted to teaching the practice and the scholarly study of the art of cinema in all its forms (e.g. narrative, documentary, avant-garde/experimental, animation). Our curriculum incorporates film/digital production and the study of film aesthetics, history, and theory, with majors required to take production and cinema studies courses in equal measure. This reflects our belief that filmmaking and film studies are mutually sustaining: the experience of researching and analyzing cinema at a high intellectual level provides the developing filmmaker with a sense of their place in film-historical tradition as well as an aesthetic and conceptual sophistication that leads to more compelling artwork; and the experience of making films allows students to see cinema in new ways, enriching their analytical, historical, and theoretical writing and thinking.

As a department in Denison's Division of Fine Arts, we approach cinema first and foremost as an art form. Making and studying art merges technical skill and experience, aesthetic sensibility, historical knowledge, and a wide range of ideas and types of thinking. Our goal is to help our students become more critical, discerning, and worldly producers and consumers of cinematic art.

As a department at a liberal arts university, we teach cinema in a way that encourages students to connect it with the other arts, and to forge links between the study of film and their academic work in other courses at Denison. In film studies courses, students examine cinema from multiple perspectives: historical, scientific and technological, philosophical, psychological, economic, political, and cultural. They engage in film analysis, historical research, and theoretical inquiry. The film/digital production courses provide an immersive education in filmmaking technology and craft, while also challenging students to think artistically, critically, and ethically as they work to produce compelling works of film art.