

1-31-1983

Proposal for a Film Studies Minor

The College at Brockport, College Senate

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/senate_resolutions



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Repository Citation

The College at Brockport, College Senate, "Proposal for a Film Studies Minor" (1983). *College Senate Resolutions*. 614.
https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/senate_resolutions/614

This Resolution is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @Brockport. It has been accepted for inclusion in College Senate Resolutions by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @Brockport. For more information, please contact kmyers@brockport.edu.

Resolution #17, 1982-83

Proposal for a Film Studies Minor

TO: President John E. Van de Wetering

FROM: The Faculty Senate

Meeting on 1/31/83
(Date)

RE: X I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)
 II. Recommendation (Urging the fitness of)
 III. Other (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)

SUBJECT: Proposal for a Film Studies Minor

(see attached)



Signed [Signature] Date Sent 2/7/83
(For the Senate)
Bill W. Reed, President, Faculty Senate

TO: The Faculty Senate ✓

FROM: President John E. Van de Wetering

RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution

- a. Accepted. Effective Date Sept 1983
- b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on _____
- c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation:

II., III. a. Received and acknowledged

b. Comment: May not need to vote as "FLAR"
(see pg 4)

DISTRIBUTION: Vice Presidents: Douglas, Jander, Waler, Smith
Others: Walter, Kelly

Distribution Date: 2/16/83

Signed: [Signature]
(President of the College)

Date Received by the Senate: _____

PROPOSAL FOR A FILM STUDIES MINOR AT SUNY COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT

Rationale:

The inclusion in the college curriculum in recent years of programs such as computer science and leisure, which did not exist a generation ago, reflect the changing nature of American society and the changing role of higher education. The Film Studies Committee believes there is a need for the establishment of a film studies minor at Brockport. There are a number of reasons why Brockport should initiate such a minor. The following are perhaps the most crucial:

1. The nature of American society has undergone a radical change over the past thirty years, a change in which a large percentage of each individual's information about the world, as well as entertainment, is derived from the visual media. With the prospect that already existing technology will transform the delivery of visual images even more completely in the near future, it becomes absolutely imperative that colleges such as Brockport train students to work with visual media and to evaluate the impact of media on their lives. A film minor, offering courses across a broad spectrum of subjects related to media studies, would provide the kind of training that would develop critical and analytical abilities in students.
2. The Film Studies Minor would supplement and strengthen the Communications Program in the School of Fine and Performing Arts at Brockport by adding a complementary program taught by a highly qualified faculty drawn largely from the School of Letters and Sciences. This strengthening of the communication program would not necessitate any new staff being added to the college nor any redistribution of lines.
3. Based upon student response to individual film courses offered in the past, the expectation of the Film Studies Committee is that a film studies minor would be a valuable option for students.* Many students who now accumulate a number of courses in film could elect to complete a film minor, have that minor noted on their transcript, and thus claim that such training would be an additional skill relevant to a broad range of employment opportunities. The Film Studies Committee expects that the demand for such courses would grow significantly since the value of those offerings both to a wide variety of employment-related applications and individual interests would become increasingly apparent.
4. One of the major reasons for developing a film minor at Brockport is related to personal enrichment and satisfaction. Too frequently, we forget that colleges also exist to change the very nature of our lives so that we may see more clearly, savor more deeply, and choose more widely. The establishment of a film studies minor at Brockport would facilitate the development of a more comprehensive program in film than presently exists to enrich the lives of individuals both during and after their formal education. Preparing college students for their lives after graduation is one of the most important and most neglected tasks in contemporary American education. The

development of a film studies minor at Brockport would be one significant step in this direction since it would provide students the opportunity to develop critical skills about the media.

Resource Analysis

A film studies minor would initially necessitate the following resources:

At least one analyst projector to be housed at the Audio Visual Center in Edwards for the use of film instructors.....	\$2,900
Adequate film rental budgets for the program's courses: \$1,000 per semester or \$2,000 per year.....	\$2,000
Funding for core collection of a few films to be purchased for the program's use.....	\$1,000
An annual allocation for the purchase of library books and periodicals; a random check shows that because film books and periodicals have not been systematically ordered, our library collection is very sporadic; further, some periodicals are currently budgeted through Women's Studies for the American Film and Women in Film class.....	\$1,500
TOTAL	<u>\$7,400</u>

Some clerical or secretarial help and office supplies for program publicity and to register minors, etc. (possibly through the Dean of Letters and Sciences)

Resources currently available for use by a film studies minor would include the following:

Film rental appropriations currently managed by various departments on campus, e.g. English, history, etc;

Film projection equipment and facilities in Edwards (unfortunately there is no provision for continuous projections);

Film rental via RRRLC;

Rental agreement negotiated by Sumiko Higashi with the University of Rochester Film Studies Program;

An excellent staff at the Audio-Visual Center in Edwards;

Instructors who teach film in various departments, e.g. English, history, anthropology, etc.

Student Demand

A survey of students in two film courses taught in the fall semester has yielded the following results:

ENL 459 Hitchcock's Films

Question: Would you be interested in a film studies minor--18 hours of courses approved by a Film Studies Committee?

Probably: 43
Possibly: 24
No: 44

ENL 349 Art of the Film

Same question as above.

Probably: 16
Possible: 23
No: 27

Since these are both upper division courses, there is an enrollment of graduating seniors who would of course not be interested in a minor.

Unsolicited comments indicate that at least one senior regretted the lack of a film studies minor:

"I'm graduating but I'd stay on an extra year for the minor."
"I'd prefer a major."
"You should've had it long ago."

The following is a survey of film studies programs or course offerings in Rochester area colleges.

FILM MAJOR/MINOR

University of Rochester

English Dept. # 275-4091

Major: Undergraduate, no graduate
Minor: None

Dr. Richard Gollin
275-5757

R.I.T.

English Dept. # 475-2451

Major: Film & Television Dept. (2720)
Minor: Not sure

Dr. Angdahl
475-2721

St. John Fisher College

English Dept. # 586-4140
ext. 308

Major: None
Minor: None

Communications major with film concentration

Mr. McGuiness
ext. 253

SUNY Buffalo

English Dept. # 636-2575

Major: None
Minor: None
No film courses

Nazareth College

English Dept. # 586-2525
ext. 535

Major: None
Minor: None
No film courses

SUNY College Geneseo

English Dept. # 245-5273

Major: None
Minor: None
One film course in literature
One film course in communication

Buffalo State

English Dept. # 878-5416

Major: None
Minor: None
Offer film courses through literature

Dr. G. Bard
878-5408

Curricular Responsibility:

Curricular responsibility of the film studies minor would be maintained by a Film Studies Committee that would review course proposals, oversee course registration procedures and report to the Dean of Letters and Sciences. Possibly, some courses could be submitted to General Education for approval as issues courses. All courses offered in the program, either as courses cross-listed with departments or as independent film studies courses, shall bear an FLM prefix.

Film Studies Minor

Course of Study:

A minor in Film Studies shall be composed of nineteen credit hours.

I. Students are required to take the following sequence of courses:

- FLM 300 -- Art of the Film (3 credits)
- FLM 301 -- Documentary and Experimental Film (3 credits)
- FLM 303 -- Film Criticism and Theory (1 credit)

II. And, at least one of the following courses in Film and Society:

- FLM 304 -- Women in Film (3 credits)
- FLM 353 -- American Film and Society, 1929-1945 (3 credits)
- FLM 354 -- American Film and Society Since 1945 (3 credits)
- FLM 372 -- Film as Social Commentary (3 credits)

III. Additional hours needed to complete the minor can be taken from any of the courses listed in II. or from the following:

- FLM 371 -- Film as Communication
- FLM 459 -- Selected Topics in Film

Course Descriptions

FLM 300 Art of the Film (ENL 349, 3 credits)

An introduction to film study, this course focuses on film vocabulary in terms of shot, mise-en-scene, editing, and sound. Course emphasizes the emergence of film as a narrative art form and concentrates on analysis of film style through the work of representative directors, film genres and movement.

FLM 301 Documentary and Experimental Film (3 credits)

An introduction to documentary and experimental film, this course explores the concepts of the field, the variety of expressions within it, and the methods used by filmmakers. Course focuses on necessity to achieve an understanding of the significance of documentary and experimental film in our every day lives.

FLM 303 Film Criticism and Theory (1 credit)

This course introduces major twentieth century film theories, and must be taken concurrently with FLM 300, Art of the Film.

FLM 304 Women in Film (HST 304, 3 credits)

This course combines film studies and women's history to analyze the imagemaking process as it establishes behavioral norms for women; emphasis is upon film technique, genres, the star system, the function of ideology, developments in the film industry, and the socioeconomic context in which women actually functioned.

FLM 353 American Film and Society, 1929-1954 (HST 353, 3 credits)

A study of films of the depression and war periods, this course analyzes the relationship between major themes in popular films as they relate to the political, socioeconomic, and cultural experiences of the era.

FLM 354 American Film and Society Since 1945 (HST 354, 3 credits)

This course focuses upon American films as a part of the media system that both reflects and shapes society; emphasis is upon film technique, Hollywood film genres, and the social problem film within the context of developments in the movie industry and post World War II America.

FLM 371 Film and Communication (CMC 371, 3 credits)

A study of motion pictures in non-theatrical fields such as communications and art forms, this course analyzes the structure of the medium and the nature of the communication process within it; focus is upon techniques of filmmaking and the structure of film.

FLM 372 Film as Social Commentary (CMC 372, 3 credits)

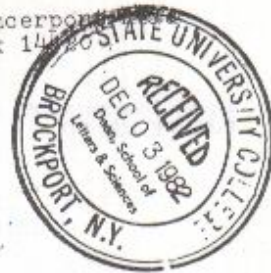
This course examines feature length film as persuasive communication to explore the explicit and hidden messages of films, the inherent messages of specific film genres, and the tools of rhetorical analysis as a means of decoding film messages.

FLM 459 Selected Topics in Film (RNL 459, 3 credits)

Topics offered in this category include American Film Comedy, Film and Dream, Romantic Couples in Film, Hitchcock's Films, and Film Satire; the course is offered in multiple sections each semester.

The above is not inclusive. Courses will be added to the Film Studies minor program as appropriate.

6334 Brockport-Spencerport
Brockport, New York 14420
November 23, 1982



Faculty Senate
c/o Dr. Stan Rubin
201 Neff Hall
SUNY College at Brockport
Brockport, New York 14420

Dear Brockport Faculty Senate Members:

My name is John Honeck and as student at Brockport I would like to address an issue that is very important to me as well as to others. It is my belief that a Film Studies minor would be a welcome addition to the liberal arts program we already have here at Brockport State. By combining a major from any one of the different academic departments with a film minor, a student will open up new career possibilities for her or himself. A Film Studies minor would coordinate the film courses already present into a detailed study of the motion picture.

This coordinated effort should take all the film courses offered at Brockport from the various departments and form an inter-departmental concentration involving all aspects of film. The following areas should be incorporated within the minor: 1) film history, 2) film criticism, 3) film as a visual art and 4) film making. It should be emphasized that both cinematology (analyzing films) and cinematography (creating films) will be required components in this minor.

A combined Film Studies program would stress the essentials of aesthetics and the communication of ideas under one minor. I think this would be a great investment for Brockport's future and I hope you do too. Thank you for your time and your concern.

Sincerely,

John Honeck
John Honeck



State University of New York
COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT
Brockport, New York 14420

Department of History
716-395-2377/2378

November 8, 1982

Director, Film Studies Committee
State University of New York College at Brockport
Campus

Dear Director:

I am writing regarding the participation of History Department instructors in the proposed Film Studies minor. At present Sumiko Higashi teaches American Film and Society since 1945 and Women in Film on a regular basis at least once a year. Ken O'Brien is planning to offer a new course on American thirties' film in the next academic year. Eugene McCreary has been offering a course on French film and society each spring in the Paris Overseas Program and will undoubtedly teach film courses should he return to the campus here.

The History Department is willing to support a Film Studies Program in terms of the availability of its teaching personnel, but our film rental budget should be augmented proportionately in order to support course requirements.

Sincerely,


Owen S. Ireland, Chairman
History Department

bp



State University of New York
COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT
Brockport, New York 14420

Department of Communication
716-395-2511

November 18, 1982

TO: Prof. Sumiko Higashi
Dept. of History

FROM: Fredric A. Powell, Chairman *FAP*
Dept. of Communication

RE: Film Course Offerings

In support of a proposed Minor in Film Studies, as well as to service students majoring in Communication, this department plans the following two courses on a biannual, alternating year schedule for the foreseeable future:

CMC 371 Film as Communication (A)
CMC 372 Film as Social Commentary (A)

Normally, one or the other course will be offered each Spring semester, with anticipated enrollment of 80 students each.

FAP/ep