Michigan State’s Film Studies major is invaluable for students interested in cinema as a subject of study and for future filmmakers. The focus on film theory is comprehensive and in-depth, and is necessary for those who want to explore what is unique and interesting about cinema. The Film Studies faculty is second-to-none: they respect their students and love what they teach. As a student, I studied francophone feminist film, zombie movies, surrealism, and contemporary work. I studied film theory in Britain, went to the Edinburgh Film Festival, met filmmakers, and discussed their work with them. The Film Studies program is a space for those who truly love cinema.

I’ve always been a storyteller. In my “Film Directing” course, writing the outline of my film shorts captivated me more than visualizing them with the camera. The turning point came in my “Advanced Screenwriting” course where I worked on a 90-minute thriller. This intensive and incredibly helpful workshop helped me realize what I wanted to do with my storytelling. The professors’ advice and guidance helped me to reach the course I’m on now—to become a great writer.
Combining History | Theory | Production

Film Studies at Michigan State University is an interdisciplinary program in the Department of English that engages students in the history, theory, and production of international cinema. Through the program, students can enroll in a:

- Bachelor of Arts in Film Studies
- Minor in Film Studies
- Minor in Fiction Filmmaking
- Minor in Documentary Production

In all of these degrees, students examine cinema as a global art, business, and mass medium deeply informed by social dynamics of race, gender, and sexuality, while also focusing on the critical, artistic, and digital skills necessary in the creative arts. Our graduates apply their expertise in a wide range of fields: from film production, screenwriting, and criticism, to arts management, educational programming, and public affairs.

Students Study

- Digital Film and Media
- Film History
- Classical Film Theory
- Contemporary Film Theory
- Ethnic Film
- Film, Gender, and Sexuality
- Film Aesthetics
- Screenwriting
- Directing

Students Learn To

- Analyze the history and meaning of film form and technique
- Contextualize contemporary media through film history
- Articulate viewpoints and arguments about film
- Cultivate interdisciplinary research skills
- Direct actors, camera, and designers
- Write feature length screenplays and film criticism

Potential Careers

- Film Production
- Screenwriting
- Multimedia Design
- Arts Management
- Media Archiving
- Film Criticism
- Advertising
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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE FILM STUDIES PROGRAM PLEASE VISIT:
filmstudies.cal.msu.edu

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