

FAMS Courses Spring 2026

FAMS 101 (01 & 02): Intro to Film & Media Studies

This is a foundational course that introduces students to the basic concepts, theories, and methods in film and media studies. We will study the histories and genres of cinema as well as formal techniques, including cinematography, editing, and sound, to develop a critical understanding of film as a mode of representation. We will also study other forms of contemporary moving-image media to gain a better understanding of the perspectives and practices of emerging technologies and forms of distribution. Through required weekly screenings, readings, writing and regular discussion, we will analyze how various screen media influence our world. **(GP, HAH, HUM).**
(101-01) M 7:00–9:45 PM & TR 11:00 AM–12:15 PM, Landis Cinema (101) Buck Hall.
(101-02) M 7:00–9:45 PM & TR 2:00–4:00 PM, Landis Cinema (101) Buck Hall.

FAMS 102: Integrated Practice I

This course introduces students to the creative, theoretical, and practical aspects of media production and is designed to provide a foundational understanding of audio-visual storytelling. Students will learn the technical fundamentals of composition, lighting, audio recording, digital video cameras, and non-linear editing. The class will be grounded in discussions of theory, ethical media-making and responsible practices that move between past, present, and future. **(HAA). TR 1:15–4:00 PM, Media 1 (102) 248 N. 3rd St.**

FAMS 203: Craft of Film & Media Studies

This course will introduce students to the practice of writing and researching in the discipline of Film and Media Studies. Students will learn to develop strong research questions, identify relevant scholarly sources, draft a working bibliography, conduct archival research, integrate archival elements and write and revise a research paper. They will develop these skills as we study a variety of media formations. **(HAH, W). MW 11:40 AM–12:55 PM, Media 3 (102) Buck Hall.**

FAMS 251: Screenwriting

This course will introduce students to feature film screenwriting. Students will examine various narrative tools and methods of screenwriting including story structure, character development, use of conflict, scene writing and dialogue. Students will analyze films and their accompanying shooting scripts to discover what works and what is less successful at the script level. These formal investigations will then be applied to students' own original material in a workshop environment where student scripts will be critiqued. **(HAA, HUM, W). Jennifer Gilmore. W 1:15–4:00 PM, Pardee 320B.**

FAMS 260: Film Genres

Feel like a horror film or a romantic comedy tonight? We often begin our media choices with categories, but how do genres work and why do they endure? This course is a tour through several influential film genres—possibilities include Horror, Film Noir, Melodrama, Sci-Fi, the Western, Musicals, Thrillers, Screwball Comedies, Road Movies, etc. We will investigate examples within each genre and learn critical frameworks with which to approach genre study. How are genres established, stretched, or subverted? What political or social uses have certain genres served? What new kinds of cinema emerge when genres combine? How do audiences interact with

genres, and how and when are genre pictures disseminated and promoted? Is genre an effective artistic tool or an inherently limited way of seeing? In addition to our examination of several cinematic genres, students will conduct scholarly research to become specialists in a genre of their choice **(HUM)**. **Andy Smith, TR 9:30–12:15, Media 2 (121) 248 N. 3rd St.**

FAMS 302: Topics in Integrated Practice–Short Narrative Film

This course extends the hands-on media making of earlier production courses while focusing on one media genre—here, short narrative cinema. As a topic of integrated practice, the course foregrounds and extends the value of intentionally building connections between the study of media theory/history and media practice. We will immerse ourselves in this rich and diverse form, taking it as our object of study and as inspiration for making our own original short films. Students will read theoretical and practical analyses on writing screenplays and making short narrative films, and examine numerous fictional shorts, as we seek to understand the form in which we aspire to work. In addition to constant reading, writing and discussions, all students will complete original short narrative films (10-15 minute runtimes) of their own, moving through the stages of generative writing, revision, shooting, editing, scoring, and screening their completed films. This course is recommended for students hoping to 1) do a production-intensive capstone project in their senior year, 2) sharpen/add to their media portfolio, and/or 3) better understand the form of short narrative film. **Prerequisite FAMS 102. (HAA).**

Andy Smith. W 1:15–4:00 PM, Media 2 (121) 248 N. 3rd St.

FAMS 360: Indian Cinema

Via screenings, readings, and guided discussion we will develop an understanding of the “national cinema” of India and the related categories of regional, parallel, Bollywood, diaspora, documentary, and prayoga cinemas. Studying films from the silent era to the present, we will look at the histories and theories of Indian cinema and how film has been deployed as a means of artistic expression, ideological context, spectacle, and an instrument for political change. We will focus specifically on how gender and religion are portrayed and weaponized, how they intersect with and reflect on the culture from which they emerge. **(CECS, GM1, GM2, GP, W).**

Nandini Sikand. TR 1:15–4:00 PM, Media 2 (121) 248 N. 3rd St.

FAMS 280: Internship

FAMS 391: Independent Study

FAMS 496: Thesis

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GOVT 280 Media and Politics in Comparative Perspective. This course will provide a survey of media and politics from a cross-national comparative perspective. We will examine whether and how the media influences political outcomes like democratic accountability and authoritarian control, polarization and conflict, protest, and political campaigns. We will then examine whether and how political forces such as censorship, regulation, political culture, and market design shape the media. Finally, we will turn to current trends in media and politics: the decline of local and mainstream news, the rise of alternative and social media, and the influence of artificial intelligence. The course will seek answers to questions such as: Does the media create or reflect our political culture? Are new media technologies tools of democratic empowerment or threats to democratic stability? How should citizens and policymakers respond to transformations in the contemporary media landscape? **Dylan Groves. MW 8:00–9:15 AM, Kirby 104**