

March 7, 2018  
Memo to Students  
RE: Change to the Film and Media Studies Major

Dear FMS majors,

I am writing to you about an important change to the Film and Media Studies major that was approved today in the Arts and Sciences faculty meeting. As you know, up until now, FMS majors have been required to take either FMS 23 Media and Society or FMS 22 Media Literacy. If you have already fulfilled this requirement, this change does not affect you.

**If you haven't, going forward, FMS majors are no longer required to take either FMS 23 Media and Society or FMS 22 Media Literacy. Instead, FMS majors are required to take a social science elective course on film and/or media.** Media and Society and Media Literacy can still be used to fulfill this requirement as they are both social science courses, but so can a number of other social science courses, some of which are listed below.

If you have already taken one of these courses, then you have fulfilled the new FMS social science elective requirement (unless you are using it to count toward a different FMS elective requirement such as the FMS upper level elective requirement):

- FMS 22 Media Literacy
- FMS 23/SOC 40 Media and Society
- FMS 51/ANTH 136 Cultures of Computing (being offered in fall 2018)
- FMS 52/CSHD 0167 Children and Mass Media (being offered in fall 2018)
- FMS 161/SOC 185 Seminar in Mass Media Studies (being offered in fall 2018)
- FMS 162/ANTH 164 Media, the State and the Senses
- FMS 163/PS 104 New Media, New Politics

To summarize: going forward, instead of taking either FMS 23 Media and Society or FMS 22 Media Literacy, you must take at least one social science course with an FMS number. If you have already taken either Media and Society, Media Literacy, or one of the other courses listed above, then you have fulfilled the new social science elective requirement (unless you are using it to count toward a different FMS elective requirement such as the FMS upper level elective requirement). If you haven't, then you can take any one of the courses listed above to fulfill the new FMS social science elective requirement.

We have made this change because, due to the increasing number of FMS majors and minors, some of you have experienced difficulty gaining entry to Media and Society, a popular course in the Sociology department. This change also gives you the flexibility to take a social science course that caters to your interests. Please note that other social science courses will be added in the future, such as ANTH 0133 Anthropology of Journalism, a new Anthropology course that will soon be taught in the Anthropology department and will be given an FMS course number.

Please note that a course can only be used to fulfill one FMS elective requirement for the FMS major. FMS 161/SOC 185 Seminar in Mass Media Studies, for example, is both a social science course and an upper-level course. If you use it to fulfill the FMS upper-level elective requirement, you cannot also use it to fulfill the new FMS social science elective requirement.

The new structure of the major can be found below, and will soon be available on our website.

Malcolm Turvey  
FMS Program Director

## **UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR IN FILM AND MEDIA STUDIES (FMS)**

The Film and Media Studies major requires the completion of TEN courses:

- TWO required core courses
- EIGHT elective courses, OR SIX elective courses and a TWO course Senior Honors Thesis/Project

### Required Core Courses (TWO courses)

The two required core courses impart analytical skills, historical background, and theoretical underpinnings, providing a coherent knowledge base and consistent language among FMS students.

The two required core courses are:

- FMS20 Art of the Moving Image
- FMS21 Global History of Cinema OR FMS24 20th Century U.S. Television History

We strongly encourage students to take the two required core courses early in their program of study.

### Eight Courses (EIGHT courses)

Students must take eight elective courses (or six if undertaking a Senior Honors Thesis/Project) from the list of FMS-approved courses. Of these:

- One must be a theory course
- One must be a film or media practice course
- One must be social science course
- One must be a non-U.S. film or media course
- One must be an upper level course

### Senior Honors Thesis/Project (TWO courses)

In the senior year, FMS students may undertake a two course Senior Honors Thesis or Project under the guidance of a committee consisting of at least two faculty members, which allows students to do in-depth, self-directed work as scholars and/or artists. Students undertaking a two course Senior Honors Thesis or Project need only take six elective courses along with the two required core courses.

### Policies

- Electives cannot be "double-counted"—an elective can only fulfill one FMS elective requirement.
- For students electing to do a double major, it is possible to double count up to FIVE courses from the other major toward the FMS major.
- No more than FOUR practice electives may be counted toward the FMS major.
- An internship through the course FMS99 counts as a practice elective but does not fulfill the FMS practice elective requirement.
- Only ONE internship taken for credit may be counted toward the FMS major.
- Only ONE FMS Directed Study (FMS 195) can be counted toward the FMS major.
- Up to FIVE courses taken abroad or at other universities can be counted toward the FMS major at the discretion of the program director.

Contact Malcolm Turvey for details.