Facilities and Resources

The cinema studies program office is located in Massachusetts Hall. Cinema studies courses are offered in classrooms around campus, with film screenings held in several on-campus auditoriums, including Sills Hall, Smith Auditorium; the Visual Arts Center, Beam Classroom; and Searles Hall, Room 315. All screening venues are equipped with theater seating, large screens, and state-of-the-art projection.

In addition, the Language Media Center houses an extensive collection of DVDs of films used in classes and is equipped with playback stations for individual viewing. All international standards of analog and digital playback are supported. The center provides support for the creation of multimedia presentation materials and facilities for the recording and editing of analog and digital audio and video.

Curriculum

Bowdoin College does not offer a major in cinema studies. Students minoring in cinema studies are required to complete a total of five courses. These must include Cinema Studies 1101, Cinema Studies 2201 or 2202 (History of Film I or II), a 3000-level seminar that must be taken at Bowdoin, a cinema studies course that incorporates theory, and a course in non-US cinema. Students can count one class for more than one requirement (i.e., a 3000-level course with a theory component). First-year seminars in cinema studies may count toward the minor, but no more than two courses below the 2000-level will count toward the minor.

Course Offerings

More than twenty courses are offered in cinema studies each year, including first-year seminars, introductions to film techniques, literature, history, and theory and upper-division courses and advanced seminars. Cinema studies first-year seminars provide an excellent introduction to the study of film. A few first-year seminars are offered each year, each of which is limited to sixteen students. Some seminars offered in past years include: Film Noir; East Asian Genre Cinema: Action, Anime, and Martial Arts; Cultural Difference and the Crime Film; and Historians, Comedienness, Storytellers: Women Filmmakers in the German-Speaking Countries.

Intermediate and advanced courses give experienced students an opportunity to do more rigorous work in the discipline. Several upper-level courses are offered each year. Examples include Film as a Subversive Art: Avant-Garde Cinema; New Waves in the New World: Latin American Cinema; Film and Biography; Transnational Chinese Cinema; Images of America in Film; Activist Voices in India; African American Film; Italy’s Cinema of Social Engagement; and Reel Places: Framing Interactions between Humans and Their Environments.

After Bowdoin

Rather than being a pre-professional program, the cinema studies minor offers students an opportunity to explore and learn about all aspects of contemporary and historical film. Graduates enter a variety of fields, including the film industry, and may pursue graduate work in cinema studies.
Film Screenings and Events

The cinema studies program hosts and sponsors a variety of on-campus film screenings, lectures, and film festivals each year. Recent examples include:

- **Poster Girl**: Screening and discussion with producer Mitchell Block
- **Granito: How To Nail a Dictator**, with filmmakers Pamela Yates and Paco de Onis
- **Latin American and Spanish Film Festival** featuring such works as Lope, Tambien la Lluvia, Contracorriente, and Chico y Rita, among others.
- **Gloria Swanson: Ready for Her Close-Up**, a book release celebration with professor Tricia Welsch
- **Annual World Cinema Film Festival**, offering a varied program of important contemporary narrative and documentary films from around the world with post-screening discussions moderated by faculty and students.
- **The Garden**, discussion and screening with director Scott Kennedy Hamilton

Bowdoin Film Society

This is a tightly-knit family of cinephiles and filmmakers dedicated to cultivating and maintaining a thriving filmmaking community on campus. The society lies at the heart of cinema culture at Bowdoin College. It has a strong tradition of exploring the world of film, whether through showing students how to use equipment to realize their artistic visions or by organizing film events for the community. The society meets weekly during the academic year to discuss programming and projects. Currently, the society screens films every weekend for the campus and hosts two major student film festivals: the 48 Hour Film Festival in the fall and the Spring Film Festival. Programming has long been the primary focus of the group, with the continued goal of screening a variety of films including under-appreciated cinematic gems and Hollywood blockbusters.

Faculty

Aviva Briefel, professor of English and cinema studies, B.A. (Brown), M.A., Ph.D. (Harvard); teaching concentrations include Victorian literature and culture, the horror film, women and film, and cinematic adaptation; research interests include narratives of art forgery, the horror film, Victorian empire and the body, and the Victorian gothic.

Sarah Childress, visiting assistant professor of cinema studies, B.A. (Emory), M.A., Ph.D. (Vanderbilt); research interests include Latin American cinema, experimental and avant-garde film, film theory and criticism, and film manifestos.

Allison Cooper, assistant professor of Romance languages and cinema studies, B.A. (Knox), M.A., Ph.D. (California–Los Angeles); teaching and research interests include Italian modernism and the avant-garde, modern and contemporary Rome, Italian cinema, gender and sexuality studies, and language pedagogy and curriculum development.

Shu-chin Tsui, professor of Asian studies and cinema studies, B.A. (Xi’an University of Foreign Language Studies), M.A. (Wisconsin–Madison), Ph.D. (Michigan); concentrates in culture studies and Chinese literature.

Tricia Welsch, professor of cinema studies, B.A. (Fordham), M.A., Ph.D. (Virginia); teaching and research interests include biography and film; film history, especially the early and silent periods; British, German, and American cinema; the work of major directors; film comedy; the gangster genre; and gay and lesbian cinema.