

February 25, 2016

Garett Heysel
Assistant Dean, Arts and Humanities
College of Arts and Sciences
The Ohio State University
186 University Hall
Columbus, Ohio 43210

Dear Dean Heysel:

The Interdisciplinary Film Studies Committee (IFSC) proposes the creation of a new minor in screenwriting. At the undergraduate level, our program currently offers a major and a minor in Film Studies. Representing a logical expansion of our curriculum, the addition of a minor in screenwriting addresses demonstrable student demand and takes advantage of new courses that the program has recently developed.

Rationale:

Having long offered courses in screenwriting, the Film Studies Program recognizes the importance of this mode of creative practice to our curriculum and to the study and production of moving-image art. Robust student demand for screenwriting courses has allowed the program to expand this area. Andy Rose, who has taught for a number of years as a lecturer for Film Studies, offers a popular course on “Screenwriting and the Business of Cinema” (Film Studies 4880). The program has also proposed the addition of a counterpart course, “Screenwriting and the Business of Television” (Film Studies 4881), which Andy has previously taught under a Group Studies number. At a time when the medium of TV is receiving more broad cultural attention than ever, this course has obvious appeal for students looking to work in the entertainment industry. Professor Angus Fletcher, whom Film Studies co-hired with the Department of English, regularly teaches screenwriting courses for the program. A new course that Angus designed, “Story Development for Film and Television” (Film Studies/English 4800) has recently been approved and will be offered for the first time in Fall 2016. Along with Theatre 5331, the “Introduction to Screenwriting” class, we now have a critical mass of specialized courses, which allow us to create a focused, coherent minor curriculum.

Enrollment data in Film Studies’ screenwriting courses as well as our majors’ choice of focus area make clear that many Ohio State students would welcome the creation of this new minor. Our data shows that in Spring 2015 fifty-four students enrolled in the four screenwriting courses (Theatre 5331, Film Studies 4880, Film Studies 4890, and Film Studies 5194). This is a considerable improvement over Autumn 2012, when three courses (Theatre 5331, Film Studies 4880, and Film Studies 4890) collectively enrolled forty students. It also illustrates a three-semester trend of gradual increase. In Autumn 2014 and Spring 2014, screenwriting courses enrolled forty-six and forty-eight students, respectively. At a time when enrollments in many Arts and Humanities courses are down, this growth, though modest, indicates sustained demand.

We expect that some Film Studies majors would want to take the Screenwriting Minor. But I also note that the students currently taking the screenwriting courses that would count toward the minor are not exclusively Film Studies majors (or majors in Theatre, the other unit offering these courses). Rather we have fifteen to twenty students from other departments taking these classes any given term. This trend suggests a significant group of students from around the College who might be interested in completing the proposed minor. During their senior year, Film Studies majors are asked to articulate a Focus Area for their studies. The vast majority of our students are interested in development and production; their Focus Areas reflect this interest. Last year, out of twenty-seven graduating majors, twelve chose focus areas in “production,” broadly defined, and fourteen chose focus areas in “screenwriting.” (We have continued to see a similar trend this year.) Therefore, screenwriting appears to be the single biggest area of curricular interest in our program, with between a quarter and half of all of our students viewing it as their area of specialization. Although the Focus Area component of our major provides the opportunity for students to formalize their interest in screenwriting to some extent, it is not the same as an official credential in screenwriting, reflected on students’ transcripts. (The Focus Area is something that majors work on defining in collaboration with their advisors and the Program Director; its significance is, therefore, mainly internal to the program.) I imagine that many students would prefer the opportunity to enhance their degree with this sort of official recognition. And Film Studies majors who elect to do the Screenwriting Minor would potentially be able to designate another focus area, thus rounding out their program of study in a different way. Bearing all of these factors in mind, I do not feel that the Screenwriting Minor would be redundant.

The proposed Screenwriting Minor is designed to reflect the Film Studies Program’s dynamic interdisciplinary model and, more specifically, the linkage between creative practice and critical study. It draws courses from a variety of units (Film Studies, English, History of Art, Theatre, and ACCAD), complementing the screenwriting courses with courses in film history and theory, creative writing, and literary history. Students pursuing this minor will be introduced to the history of cinema and to historical storytelling practices across media; we see this aspect of the minor as a crucial intellectual foundation for the creative work that students will do in their screenwriting courses.

The Screenwriting Minor would benefit current and future students by giving them a clear path through which to pursue their creative and professional goals in the field. It would also benefit the institution by acting as a useful recruiting tool, enhancing the visibility of Ohio State’s curriculum in production-related areas. Despite the rapid growth of the Film Studies Program, Ohio State remains a step behind some of its peer institutions in having such clearly defined curricular structures (e.g., Ohio University, which has a Minor in Screenwriting and Digital Storytelling). At present, the university is actively seeking to close this gap and to build on the university’s earlier successes in graduating students who go on to work in different sectors of the entertainment industry. Under Dean David Manderscheid’s leadership, the College of Arts and Sciences has recognized the importance of and demand for a more robust curriculum in existing and emerging modes of film and video art. (As the City of Columbus and State of Ohio seek to attract more film and television production and post-production activity to the region, it is especially important that Ohio State train students who will be prepared to take advantage of these new opportunities.) The College has, therefore, supported the creating of a new B.A.

program in Moving-Image Production (MIP) to be housed within Film Studies. The creation of a Screenwriting Minor is, we believe, consistent with this curricular expansion and serves similar ends, even though the Screenwriting Minor is not a part of the MIP curriculum. (We do hope that some students who choose to major in MIP will complete the Screenwriting Minor, but, for the sake of clarity, it is important to note that the discussion of this minor is completely separate from the planning process for the new B.A.)

Relationship to Other Programs/Benchmarking:

The Film Studies Program currently offers an undergraduate major and minor, both of which focus on the critical study of film in its historical, social, formal, and theoretical aspects. There is no major in screenwriting at Ohio State, and the Screenwriting Minor is distinct from both of the existing Film Studies offerings in so far as it focuses on the art of writing original stories for the screen. As I indicated above, Film Studies majors could easily complete the Screenwriting Minor, but it would also likely appeal to students from a range of other majors.

The Screenwriting Minor draws on courses from Film Studies, ACCAD, English, History of Art, and Theatre. Film Studies is seeking concurrence on the proposal from these other units. Of these units, only Theatre and English offer courses in screenwriting. Theater's 5331 serves as an introductory course, and "Story Development for Film and Television" is cross-listed as Film Studies/English 4800.

We have not previously proposed this or any similar minor.

Student Enrollment:

We predict that we will be able to enroll roughly thirty students in the Screenwriting Minor in any given year.

Curricular Requirements:

The Screenwriting Minor advising sheet is attached to this letter.

List of courses:

INTRODUCTION TO FILM STUDIES COURSES:

(Choose 1) (3 hours)

ENGLISH 2263: Introduction to Film

HISTORY OF ART 2901: Introduction to World Cinema

FILM STUDIES 2270.01: Introduction to Film Studies

FILM STUDIES 2271: Introduction to Film Studies for Majors

ACCAD 3350: The History & Theory of Animation

INTRODUCTION TO STORYTELLING COURSES:

(Choose 1) (3 hours)

ENGLISH 2220: Introduction to Shakespeare

ENGLISH 2261: Introduction to Fiction
ENGLISH 2262: Introduction to Drama
ENGLISH 2265: Writing of Fiction 1
ENGLISH 2268: Writing of Creative Nonfiction 1
ENGLISH 2269: Digital Media Composing
ENGLISH 4559: Introduction to Narrative and Narrative Theory
THEATRE 2110: Script Analysis
THEATRE 3731: Theatre Histories and Literatures

ADVANCED FILM STUDIES COURSES:

(Choose 1)(3 hours)

FILM STUDIES 3660: Documentary Film Studies
FILM STUDIES 4580: Studies in a Major Director
FILM STUDIES 4640: Studies in Cinema History
FILM STUDIES 4650: Studies in Regional Cinema
FILM STUDIES 4670H: Cinema and the Historical Avant Garde
FILM STUDIES 4895: Senior Seminar in Film Studies

INTRODUCTION TO DEVELOPMENT COURSE:

(3 hours)

FILM STUDIES/ENGLISH 4800: Story Development for Film and Television (Prereq.: permission of instructor.)

INTRODUCTION TO SCREENWRITING COURSE:

(3 hours)

THEATRE 5331: Screenwriting

BUSINESS OF SCREENWRITING COURSE:

(Choose 1) (3 hours)

FILM STUDIES 4880: Screenwriting and the Business of Cinema (Prereq.: Theatre 5331, or permission of instructor.)
FILM STUDIES 4881: Screenwriting and the Business of Television (New course. Prereq.: Theatre 5331, or permission of instructor.)

Students need eighteen credit hours to complete the minor.

The proposal does not require the use of any new university resources (in terms of advising and equipment). We will handle student advising within our current structure, with students seeing Emily Carpenter, the Coordinator of Arts and Sciences Academic Advising, for general guidance in scheduling and fulfilling requirements, and Matt Swift, the Film Studies Program Coordinator, for consultation on specific course content issues.

I look forward to working with you on the creation of this important new undergraduate minor. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you need any additional information or have questions.

Sincerely yours,

Ryan Friedman
Director, Film Studies Program
Associate Professor of English

**The Ohio State University
College of Arts and Sciences**

Screenwriting Minor

**Film Studies Program, 150 Hagerty Hall, 1775 College Rd.,
Columbus, OH 43210-1340; filmstudies@osu.edu
614-292-6044; <http://film-studies.osu.edu/>**

Combining theory and practice, the Screenwriting Minor prepares students to develop original stories, scripts, and screenplays for production as works of moving-image art. In keeping with the interdisciplinary spirit of the Film Studies Program, this minor integrates creative practice with critical study. In addition to developing skills for writing for the screen in a variety of forms—fictional narrative film, experimental film, documentary, animation, television, and/or new media—students will garner a foundational understanding of film history and theory and of storytelling conventions across media. Through this in-depth study of the art of screenwriting, students will be able to hone their own distinct voices, gaining crucial professional experience for careers in film and television writing. Administered by the Film Studies Program, the Screenwriting Minor is comprised of its courses and courses from ACCAD, English, Film Studies, and Theatre.

The minor in screenwriting requires the completion of 18 credit hours spread across: 1 introduction to film studies course; 1 introductory course in the history or practice of storytelling; 1 advanced film studies course; 1 course in story development and, 1 course introducing students to screenwriting and 1 course in the business of screenwriting and more advanced techniques. After completion of the introductory course, the student should meet with the Film Studies Program Coordinator to map out curricular options. Once the course work has been approved, the student may declare the minor in the college/school office. Once the Minor curriculum has been completed the student must file a minor form with the Film Studies Program Office. For further information about the screenwriting minor, contact the Film Studies Program, filmstudies@osu.edu

**INTRODUCTION TO FILM STUDIES COURSES:
(Choose 1) (3 hours)**

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HISTORY OF ART 2901: Introduction to World Cinema
FILM STUDIES 2270.01: Introduction to Film Studies
FILM STUDIES 2271: Introduction to Film Studies for Majors
ACCAD 3350: The History & Theory of Animation

**INTRODUCTION TO STORYTELLING COURSES:
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ENGLISH 2220: Introduction to Shakespeare
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ENGLISH 4559: Introduction to Narrative and Narrative Theory
THEATRE 2110: Script Analysis
THEATRE 3731: Theatre Histories and Literatures

**ADVANCED FILM STUDIES COURSES:
(Choose 1)(3 hours)**

FILM STUDIES 3660: Documentary Film Studies
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FILM STUDIES 4650: Studies in Regional Cinema
FILM STUDIES 4670H: Cinema and the Historical
Avant-Garde

FILM STUDIES 4895: Senior Seminar in Film Studies

**INTRODUCTION TO DEVELOPMENT COURSE:
(3 hours)**

FILM STUDIES/ENGLISH 4800: Story Development for Film
and Television

**INTRODUCTION TO SCREENWRITING COURSE:
(3 hours)**

THEATRE 5331: Screenwriting

**BUSINESS OF SCREENWRITING COURSE:
(Choose 1)(3 hours)**

FILM STUDIES 4880: Screenwriting and the Business of
Cinema

FILM STUDIES 4881: Screenwriting and the Business of
Television

Screenwriting minor program guidelines

The following guidelines govern this minor:

Required for graduation No

Credit hours required A minimum of 18 credit hrs (two introductory course and 12 additional credit hours). 1000 level courses shall not be counted in the minor.

Transfer and EM credit hours allowed

A student is permitted to count up to 6 total hours of transfer credit and/or credit by examination.

Overlap with the GE A student is permitted to overlap up to 6 credit hours between the GE and the minor.

Overlap with the major and additional minor(s)

- The minor must be in a different subject than the major.
- The minor must contain a minimum of 12 hours distinct from the major and/or additional minor(s).

Grades required

- Minimum C- for a course to be listed on the minor.
- Minimum 2.00 cumulative point-hour ratio required for the minor.
- Course work graded Pass/Non-Pass cannot count on the minor.
- No more than 3 credit hours of coursework graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory may count toward the minor.

X193 credits No more than 3 credit hours.

Approval required The minor course work must be approved by the Film Studies Program Coordinator.

Filing the minor program form The minor program form must be filed at least by the time the graduation application is submitted to a college/school counselor.

Changing the minor Once the minor program is filed in the college office, any changes must be approved by:

- Film Studies Program – filmstudies@osu.edu
- Program Coordinator – Matt Swift

College of Arts and Sciences
Curriculum and Assessment Services
154 Denney Hall, 164 W. 17th Ave.
<http://artsandsciences.osu.edu>



Department of French and Italian

200 Hagerty Hall
1775 College Road
Columbus, OH 43210-1340

Phone (614) 292-4938

Fax (614) 292-7403

April 27, 2016

Dear Meg,

The Arts and Humanities panel met on Tuesday, April 12 and discussed the new Screenwriting Minor proposed by the Interdisciplinary Film Studies Committee. The Film Studies program has long offered courses in screenwriting and are aware of the demand from students. Enrollment data in Film Studies' screenwriting courses as well as their majors' choice of focus area make clear that many students would welcome the creation of this new minor. Screenwriting appears to be the single biggest area of curricular interest in the Film Studies program, with between a quarter and half of all students viewing it as their area of specialization.

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The A&H panel unanimously approved the minor with two contingencies. We asked for adjustments to the minor sheet, which were completed. We also expressed our concern that two categories: Introduction to Development and Introduction to Screenwriting each had one course available, which means that they would have to be offered frequently. The director of Film Studies, Ryan Friedman communicated to me by email that this was a point that the Film Studies Committee debated at some length when they devised the proposal for the screenwriting minor. The proposal originally called for a single Introduction to Screenwriting category to include both Theatre 5331 and FS 4800 as options for satisfying that requirement. However, the faculty who teach in screenwriting felt that, because the two classes are very different in their content and approach, it made sense to put them in separate categories and to require both for completion of the minor. He suggests that the minor be offered as originally proposed and that the Film Studies office will monitor this issue. If they see that course availability is hampering students' progress through the minor, then they will combine the two classes into a single category. I agreed and moved the minor forward.

Sincerely,

Janice M. Aski
Janice M. Aski

<p style="text-align: center;">The Ohio State University College of the Arts and Sciences Concurrence Form</p>
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The purpose of this form is to provide a simple system of obtaining departmental reactions to course requests. **An e-mail may be substituted for this form.**

An academic unit initiating a request should complete Section A of this form and send a copy of the form, course request, and syllabus to each of the academic units that might have related interests in the course. Units should be allowed two weeks to respond to requests for concurrence.

Academic units receiving this form should respond to Section B and return the form to the initiating unit. Overlap of course content and other problems should be resolved by the academic units before this form and all other accompanying documentation may be forwarded to the Office of Academic Affairs.

A. Proposal to review

Initiating Academic Unit	Course Number	Course Title
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Type of Proposal (New, Change, Withdrawal, or other)	Date request sent
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Academic Unit Asked to Review	Date response needed
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B. Response from the Academic Unit reviewing

Response: include a reaction to the proposal, including a statement of support or non-support (continued on the back of this form or a separate sheet, if necessary).

Signatures

<i>Maria Palazzi</i>			
1. Name	Position	Unit	Date
2. Name	Position	Unit	Date
3. Name	Position	Unit	Date

RE: Request for Concurrence

Moddelmog, Debra

To: Friedman, Ryan

Cc: Simmons, Clare

Tuesday, March 08, 2016 2:36 PM

Dear Ryan,

This was on my radar to respond to today (I've been swamped with meetings!), but yes, the English Undergraduate Studies Committee has reviewed the Screenwriting Minor and agreed that English can provide our concurrence.

Good luck with the rest of the process.

My best,

Debra



Debra A. Moddelmog

Professor and Chair

Department of English

421 Denney Hall

164 Annie and John Glenn Ave.

Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-6065 Office / 614-292-7816 Fax

moddelmog.1@osu.edu english.osu.edu

From: Friedman, Ryan

Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2016 2:31 PM

To: Simmons, Clare <simmons.9@osu.edu>

Cc: Lowry, Debra <lowry.40@osu.edu>; Moddelmog, Debra <moddelmog.1@osu.edu>

Subject: RE: Request for Concurrence

Clare:

I don't believe that I had received official word about the Screenwriting Minor. I did hear from Sean O'Sullivan that the committee thought the proposal looked good, by way of his recommended that we add English 4559 (Introduction to Narrative and Narrative Theory) to the list of "Introduction to Storytelling" courses. I thought it was a great suggestion and have already made the addition. Glad to hear that English gives concurrence.

Thanks,
Ryan

I requested concurrence from Theatre on February 25 via email but did not receive a response before the deadline given (March 11).

I requested concurrence from History of Art on February 25 via email but did not receive a response before the deadline given (March 11).