

Education plan

for

Master's Programme in Cinema Studies
Master's Programme in Cinema Studies

120.0 Higher Education
Credits
120.0 ECTS credits

Programme code:	HCINO
Valid from:	Autumn 2009
Date of approval:	2007-11-27
Changed:	2009-06-03
Department:	Department of Media Studies

Decision

The programme outline has been approved by the Faculty of Humanities, altered by the board of the Department of Cinema Studies on the 3rd June 2009, and is valid from the autumn semester of 2009.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Students are required to have a first degree in cinema studies or equivalent. They should also be proficient in writing academic English (which in the Swedish educational system corresponds to 'Engelska B' as a minimum requirement.)

Programme structure

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The programme consists of the following mandatory courses:

1. Formations of Cinema Studies: Critical Approaches, Contemporary Challenges, Core Course 1, 7,5 hp (7,5 ECTS)
2. Formations of Cinema Studies: Critical Approaches, Contemporary Challenges, Core Course 2, 7,5 hp (7,5 ECTS)
3. Master's degree thesis with a minimum of 30 ECTS, in the Department of Cinema Studies, Stockholm University.
4. Two courses offered by the Faculty of Humanities that are mandatory for all Master's Programmes:
 - a) Scientific Method and Research Ethics, 7.5 ECTS, in the Department of Philosophy, Stockholm University.
 - b) English for Academic Research, 7.5 ECTS, in the Department of English, Stockholm University.

In addition to these:

Optional courses at advanced level with a total credit accumulation of 30 ECTS, in the Department of Cinema Studies, Stockholm University.

Optional courses at advanced level with a total credit accumulation of 30 ECTS offered by the Department of Cinema Studies, other departments within Stockholm University, or at one of our partner universities.

Goals

Having completed the course the student has demonstrated an ability to:

1. critically and systematically integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations within the major field of study, and to show substantially deeper knowledge of certain parts of that field;
2. on the basis of a deepened methodological awareness and a deeper insight into current research and development work, critically, independently and creatively identify and formulate issues and to plan and, using appropriate methods, carry out an advanced task within specified time limits;
3. clearly present and discuss the conclusions and the knowledge and arguments behind them, orally and in writing, in national and international contexts;
4. observe prevailing principles of research ethics.

Courses

Course descriptions

Obligatory courses:

Formations of Cinema Studies: Critical Approaches, Contemporary Challenges, core course 1, 7,5 hp (7,5 ECTS)

Formations of Cinema Studies: Critical Approaches, Contemporary Challenges, core course 2, 7,5 hp (7,5 ECTS)

The core course 1 & 2 explores a range of critical approaches to the study of cinema and the moving image. Focusing on theoretical issues and methodological questions, the course serves as an advanced introduction to the disciplinary formation of Cinema Studies, its current research themes and contemporary debates. The first of the core courses offers a broad perspective on the theoretical traditions, key concepts and methodologies within Cinema Studies. In continuation, Core Course 2 offers an enhanced orientation into some specific mediatheoretical problems. The aim is to foster critical thinking and the development of analytical skills and research practices.

Optional courses by Cinema Studies:

Media Studies: Keywords for the Present 7,5 hp (7,5 ECTS)

This course, co-taught by Cinema Studies and Journalism, Media, and Communication, provides analytical tools for critically investigating contemporary media culture. By emphasizing “keywords”, i.e. concepts, theories and methodological perspectives, the course provides an overview of key debates within contemporary media studies and is highly pertinent for students planning or already writing their MA-thesis. Focusing on both traditional media (e.g. TV, press, film, radio) and forms of digital culture the course offers critical perspectives on the transformations of media technologies, production and reception practices, aesthetic and representational strategies and the changing cultural and social meanings of media. Topics discussed include media convergence vs. media specificity, intermediality/transmedial narration, novel forms of media uses, changing screen cultures, notions of “trash” and media affects.

National, Transnational, Global: Nordic Cinemas in Transition 7,5 hp (7,5 ECTS)

The course explores Swedish and other Nordic cinemas or screen cultures from historical and contemporary perspectives. Attention will be given to the concept of national cinema as a playground for imaginary hegemonies which, in turn, are anchored in and exemplified by various production contexts in relation to the concepts of art cinema and popular film. Other topics for scrutiny in this module include intermediality, new approaches to authorships, and multicultural concerns within cinema production.

Screen Cultures in Transition, 7,5hp (7,5 ECTS)

The course offers a critical reassessment of screen cultures in transition, exploring aspects of technological change, spectatorship, and convergence in moving image culture. The changing position of screen cultures requires a reconsideration of disciplinary boundaries as well as the social, political, and aesthetic histories of the moving image.

Gendering the Moving Image: Feminist, Queer, and Postcolonial Perspectives, 7,5 hp (7,5 ECTS)

The course investigates the functions and meanings of gender, sexuality, and ethnicity in film and television. Taking up the issues of representation, reception, and interpretation, the module explores key concepts and contemporary debates within feminist, queer, and postcolonial perspectives, and the challenges they pose to the study of audiovisual media.

Investigations in Cinema 'before' Sound, 7,5 hp (7,5 ECTS)

The course explores a range of approaches to the study of cinema in the so-called silent era, variously analysing one or more of the following: the formal development of the medium; the social and intercultural reception of film; the relation of film to nineteenth-century popular visual culture; historiographic approaches to cinema 'before' sound.

Aesthetic Technologies and Intermediality, 7,5 hp (7,5 ECTS)

The course expands knowledge concerning the central concepts and theories in the research areas of aesthetic technologies and intermediality from an historical perspective. Particular attention is paid to the processes of change between different media and art forms, based on technical media from the origins of the alphabet to digital technologies, and how perception and memory is formed and structured. The course is offered in collaboration with the Department of Cinema Studies and the Department of Literature at Stockholm University.

Master's Degree Thesis, 30 hp (30 ECTS)

The student writes a thesis on a topic to be approved by the examiner. The thesis is a substantial piece of original research or criticism and should demonstrate the student's ability to collect, arrange, interpret, and report pertinent material. The thesis is defended in a seminar.