Department/Program Name: Film and Media Studies

Departmental/Program Profile

Overview of Research and Teaching Focus

The Film and Media Studies program has the following undergraduate majors, minors and concentrations:

- Film Studies (Major/Minor)
- Media Studies (Major/Minor)
- Film Production (track)
- Concentration in Film and Media Management (a joint program with the Goizueta Business School).
- Concentration in Documentary Studies

The main research and teaching areas of the faculty include: Film and television history: Hollywood studio system & history of television; Contemporary entertainment industry; National cinemas (e.g., Japanese cinema, French New Wave); Children and media; Film and television genres; Gender in film and popular culture; Film and media theory; African-American/Black film and television; Documentary filmmaking and aesthetics; Film and media production; Video games.

Graduate Programs: As of the FY17-18 academic year, admittance to the M.A. program is on hold while the department revamps it.

Department/Program Demographics

Full time tenure track and lecture faculty 14
Regular adjuncts (e.g. screenwriting) 2
Undergraduate majors 113
Undergraduate minors 25
Total undergraduates 138
Graduate 4 (M.A., only one left after Spring 2018)

Research Requirements (Methods, Skills, Competencies, Use of Materials)

The majority of the faculty researchers in the department work in one might call film theory and criticism. This work typically entails close readings of films or other media texts and artifacts, in
dialogue with various interdisciplinary theoretical approaches. Some examples are listed above; others include psychology and neuroscience, continental philosophy, psychoanalytic theory. The main needs of these faculty include access to scholarly monographs and journals in the field, as well as access to specific film/media texts as “primary evidence.” Access to specific films remains a major challenge within the discipline.

A smaller portion of faculty work do research in film & media history and national cinemas, which additionally requires access to primary source materials such as newspapers, trade journals and archival documents. These include English-language/Hollywood sources such as the industry newspaper Variety, archival collections such as the Production Code Administration files, and a smaller number of foreign language sources (such as Japanese). Because of their research foci, they tend not to be regular users of the Rose Library, except perhaps Prof. Matthew Bernstein, the department chair, who has published on Gone With the Wind and segregated cinema in Atlanta.

With some exceptions, student research projects and papers have tended to focus on close readings of film and media texts from various critical perspectives. The most notable recent exception was a course on Columbia Studios, which required students to use primary materials for historical inquiry. Many courses in the undergrad curriculum focus on textual analysis, so undergraduate students may not write a research-intensive paper for every course. That said, faculty have expressed a growing interest in promoting undergraduate research through freshman seminars, senior seminars and a growing contingent of undergrad honors students. They will be offering a special course for honors students starting Fall 2018.

The production faculty do use some library materials such as trade papers and practical manuals, but their main needs usually entail access to production equipment and professional software. The Visual Arts building on campus contains the film production classrooms and departmental circulating equipment collection, but a number of individual students may use the student media lab within the library for class projects. Emory has an active undergrad film production environment not limited to the students enrolled in Film and Media Studies production courses.

**Related Departments and Programs and Collaborations at Emory**

The most noteworthy collaborative venture at Emory is the Concentration in Film and Media Management, a unique partnership with the Goizueta Business School. The Media Studies undergraduate major is intentionally designed as an interdisciplinary program that entails enrolling in courses based in different departments. Other departments in the college regularly offer courses related to film and media studies which are often cross-listed by the Film and Media Studies Department and sometimes entail collaborative teaching efforts across departments.

**Collections**

**Language, Chronology and Geographical Focus**

The book and journal collections for Film and Media Studies are primarily in English, though there are also substantial bodies of literature in French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian, etc., reflecting the research interests of various faculty over the years. The most commonly used research language after English is French. More recently, we have acquired a number of books in Japanese
to support a new hire who focuses on Japanese cinema. A/V materials present an entirely different case, as noted below.

**Formats Collected**
Film and Media Studies faculty continue to use a mix of both print and online materials, which is heavily dependent on what is available. The market for ebooks is still not as developed as that for the social sciences or sciences.

**Monographs and Texts/Format**
Monographs and edited volumes are mostly covered by the GOBI approval plan; see below for LC classifications. We also collect a smaller number of foreign-language titles through vendors such as Aux Amateurs (for French).

**Journals**
The library subscribes to a number of core film and media-studies journals in both print and electronic format, and offers aggregated access through some of the databases noted above.

**Databases & Electronic Resources**
The main citation databases for Film and Media Studies are *Film and Television Literature With Full Text, FIAF International Index to Film Periodicals Plus*, and to a lesser extent related databases such as *Communication and Mass Media Complete* and *MLA International Bibliography*. The *Entertainment Industry Magazine Archives* offers important historical access to trade journals such as *Variety*, and faculty and students also regularly use *ProQuest Historical Newspapers*.

**Audiovisual Materials**
Audiovisual Materials (e.g., DVDs, Blu-rays, VHS, streaming video) are one of the primary needs of the Film and Media Studies Department and are widely used across disciplines on campus. The Film and Media Studies Librarian acts as a de facto media librarian, and the main Film and Media Studies A/V budget supports a general collection of feature films and documentaries not covered by other disciplines and subject librarians. These include recent and popular feature films and television shows, a necessary component of a well-balanced academic media collection.

The Film and Media Studies Department tends to rely on primarily on physical media for classroom and research purposes, both because of the specific nature of their needs and because most of the courses have required screenings that students must attend as part of the curriculum. That said, they also use the streaming media collection for individual viewing.

The mechanisms for acquiring videos are not as developed as those for books in the academic marketplace, which means that the subject selector typically spends much more time ordering individual videos, whereas for books most of the basic needs are met by the approval plan.

In recent years the Film and Media Studies Librarian has been working with Action Library Media to develop a blanket order plan that partially automates the selection process. Currently, the library's blanket order plan includes suppliers of notable independent, foreign and documentary films such as the Criterion Collection, Kino Lorber, Zeitgeist, Milestone, etc., as well as themes such as Academy Award winners, which are likely to appeal both to Film and Media Studies scholars and the broader campus community. Recently the blanket order program has been expanded to include cross-disciplinary suppliers such as PBS. Mainstream Hollywood companies such as Warner Home Video are not typically good candidates for the blanket order program because of
the large number of titles that they release, and because it is difficult to filter out which titles might be appealing to an academic audience.

**Other Materials (Government Documents, Data, Specialized Software)**
Depending on their specific research/creative focus, film and media studies faculty many need to use specialized equipment and software such as video game platforms, film production software, tools for making screen grabs, etc. The current faculty in this program do not work extensively with data sets or computational analysis and data visualization tools.

**Exclusions (Textbooks, Conference Proceedings)**
The Film and Media Studies collection excludes textbooks, pop/fan-oriented publications (such the many Star Wars/Star Trek illustration-heavy books), and books on religious ministry through film. The subject librarian may choose to make exceptions on a title-by-title basis, such as the discipline-standard textbook *Film Art: An Introduction* by Bordwell and Thompson.

**Methods of Acquisition (Approval, Book Fairs, Exclusive Vendors)**
**Books:** as noted above, are mostly acquired through our YBP approval plan and Gobi slips. **Videos:** The majority of the film and media studies-related DVDs and Blu-rays are acquired through our primary media vendor, Action Library Media, as well as sources such Amazon and some individual suppliers. We also acquire imports through sites such as Amazon.co.uk.

**LC Classifications**
GV1469.15-1469.62 Computer games. Video games. Fantasy games
PN1990-1992.92 Broadcasting
PN1991-1991.9 Radio broadcasts
PN1992.93-1992.95 Nonbroadcast video recordings
PN1993-1999 Motion pictures
PN1997-1997.85 Plays, scenarios, etc
PN2219.3-3030 Theater: Special regions or countries (includes biographies of film and theater actors from various countries).
TR1-1050 Photography – especially TR845-899 (Cinematography. Motion Pictures)

**Related Collections and Library Resources**

*Rose Library:* The Rose Library contains some film and media-related collections, such as the American Music Show (Atlanta-based local cable access show), the African-American film poster collection, “soundies,” the Margaret Mitchell papers, and papers by various African-American performers.

*Emory Center for Digital Scholarship (ECDS):* ECDS has supported local documentary filmmaking and offers technical support for some film and media-related needs across departments.