

19 March 2008

Dear Cinema Studies Major:

This letter is to remind you of the requirement of a Senior Experience for Cinema Studies Majors. All majors should familiarize themselves with this requirement and the various ways to satisfy it. If you have questions about this requirement, or anything else related to your major, you may want to attend a Cinema Studies Majors Meeting:

**Informational Meeting for Current and Potential Cinema Studies Majors**  
**8:30 p.m. Tuesday, 8 April**  
**Rice Faculty Lounge**

Attached to this letter is an application form for the required senior experience.

All seniors (with the exception of those who declared majors before March 2003) are required to take one of three alternative 400-level courses, any of which will fulfill the Senior Experience requirement. The first option is a Tutorial course, taken either semester of your senior year. The second option is a Seminar taken either semester (actually unavailable this year, due to staffing patterns). The final option is a two-semester Honors Project.

**The Application for Senior Experience Courses, due Thursday, 10 April**, will tell us your preferences. Before registration begins, we will let each of you know to which course you are assigned. All seniors must submit the application, as invitations to apply and selections for Honors are not guaranteed.

Upon invitation, students may apply for Honors. Although a minimum departmental GPA of 3.33 is required for Honors, most invitations will go to students with significantly higher GPAs. Applicants must propose a project that will be completed in the following format: the first semester will be devoted to a reading and viewing list that broadly supports the project, culminating in a comprehensive exam. Second semester will be devoted to producing the Honors Project, an approximately 35-page essay or its equivalent, which will be capped by an oral examination. **Invitations to Honors will be issued by, and the applications will be due by 10 April.** An invitation does not guarantee acceptance; the decision will be based on GPA, the quality and feasibility of the proposal, and the availability of a faculty sponsor.

**Double majors who have dual senior experience requirements have some special considerations.** For double majors in fields that are far apart—in the natural sciences and humanities, for instance—students will have to comply with each major's demands. For double majors in fields that cross-list—such as Cinema Studies and English—we offer the following guidelines: 1) Except by special permission, one Honors project cannot serve for two majors; 2) A seminar or a tutorial project undertaken in another department or program that is relevant to Cinema Studies—and approved by the Director—may satisfy the Senior Experience requirement, although it will not contribute credits towards graduation; 3) If after taking a seminar or tutorial project in another department or program that is relevant to Cinema Studies—and approved by the Director—a student still wishes to have a tutorial experience in the program, she or he must

wait until all seniors have an opportunity to register for a Senior Experience before signing up for a second. Space may not be available.

More information on the choices available follows.

**Senior Tutorials** are opportunities for a semester of independent work, undertaken with the supervision of a faculty member and the support of a larger group of students. These are offered for variable credit (1-4 hours), but all students are expected to produce a substantial piece of work—a 15- to 20-page critical essay or its equivalent.

Faculty and interests (not exclusive or complete, most faculty have a broad comfort with a range of topics and types of projects):

-Ms. An: French and Francophone Cinema; Documentary Studies; Transnational Cinema; Film Theory and Criticism

-Ms. Brown: Production Projects, including Documentary, Experimental and Narrative Cinema; Mixed-Media Production and Installation

-Mr. Day: American Cinema; Crime, History and Horror Genres; Television

-Mr. Doan: American Cinema; Film Genre; Animation/Comics; Experimental Critical Writing; Television

-Mr. Pence: Cinema Studies, especially Contemporary Cinema, Technology and Popular Culture

-Mr. Pingree: Documentary Studies and Production; Short Film Production; Contemporary American and International Cinema

**Honors in Cinema Studies** is a two-term sequence. The first semester will be devoted to a reading and viewing list that broadly supports the project, culminating in a written comprehensive exam. Second semester will be devoted to producing the Honors Project, an approximately 35-page essay or its equivalent, which will be capped by an oral examination.

Once again, please come to the meeting on 8 April if you have further questions.

**Applications for Tutorials and Seminars are due Thursday, 10 April at 4:30 pm in Rice 130. The form is attached to this letter.**

Sincerely,

Jeff Pence  
Director