Screen Studies Program
Hugh Manon, program director

Intellectual and Practical Skills

- Inclusion and analysis, the generation and evaluation of evidence and argument, critical and creative thinking, written and oral communication, quantitative literacy, information literacy, teamwork and problem solving. These skills will be practiced extensively, across the curriculum, in the context of progressively more challenging projects, problems, and standards for performance.

Note #1: As the program name indicates, Screen Studies has traditionally been focused on including [reading, writing, screening, and discussion] the theory and history of American and International cinema and related moving-image media. Our LEEP focus creates a set of newly developed approaches to more meaningfully integrate media production with media studies at all levels.

Note #2: This table exclusively lists new initiatives in the Screen Studies program—i.e., initiatives developed after the December 2009 adoption of LEEP.

Student Behaviors

Orientation Phase

- Both majors and non-majors in Screen courses engage in practical, hands-on work from the start. The most important, students begin to forge connections between media studies (both theory and history) and media production techniques (both narrative and style). Traditional Studies work informs production projects, while production projects crystallize historical perspectives and theoretical insights.

Exploration Phase

- Both majors and non-majors develop strong analytical and critical-thinking skills about film, television, and new media, while learning to communicate their ideas through these various media platforms. Moving-image media is engaged and engaged as a means of expression and argumentation beyond the written word. The breadth and limitations of various media platforms are encountered and explored.

Implementation/Enactment Phase

- Advanced students in Screen Studies have gained a sophisticated understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of theory and production practice. Students specializing in one broad area (i.e., studies or production) will progress into internships, and then into the work world, with a palpable sense of how their work in the other area has impacted their intellect, research agenda, skill-set, and analysis style.

Newly Implemented

(2010 to present)

High Impact Experiences

SCRN 107, “Introduction to Screen Studies,” has traditionally been a lecture-based course with weekly screenings, short essays, and exams. Now, it is a media production experience in SCRN 107: have been implemented as a way for students to “test the water” and develop interest, through the practical application of their studies work. Students use whatever equipment they have at home (jail phones, cameras, iMovie software) and “high production value” is not the focus.

The new end-of-term Screened exhibits student videos in two publicly attended screening events at Razzo Hall.

Newly Implemented

Assessment

and Evaluation

(2019 to 2020)

A Screen Studies student survey is circulated every two years. Feedback is gained from this survey and though general trends on course evaluations (read only by the program director).

Next Steps:

Continue discussions to transform Creative InterMedia from a loosely aligned set of courses to a formal concentration area for VPA majors.

Capacities of Effective Practice

- Including creativity and imagination, self-directedness, resilience and perseverance, and the ability to collaborate with others across disciplines and to manage complexity and uncertainty. These will be demonstrated by application of knowledge and skills to issues of consequence and by emerging membership in larger communities of scholarship and practice.

Note #3: While all of these listed initiatives are important, our efforts in the student experience are more impactful. In Screen Studies, core faculty focused on defining new initiatives developed after the December 2009 adoption of LEEP.

Newly Implemented

(2010 to present)

High Impact Experiences

SCRN 107, “Introduction to Screen Studies,” has traditionally been a lecture-based course with weekly screenings, short essays, and exams. Now, it is a media production experience in SCRN 107: have been implemented as a way for students to “test the water” and develop interest, through the practical application of their studies work. Students use whatever equipment they have at home (jail phones, cameras, iMovie software) and “high production value” is not the focus.

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SCRN 207, “Screenwriting,” is the capstone course in the Screen major. Students and non-major students are encouraged to take the course, regardless of intended career trajectories. The course is designed to bring together students from all five VPA majors in a single interdisciplinary course.

SCRN 207 is the final course in the Screen major and is required for all Screen Studies students. The course is divided into two main parts: the first part is an introduction to screenwriting, focusing on the craft and business of screenwriting. The second part of the course is a workshop on the process of writing and developing a screenplay. The course is designed to provide students with the skills and knowledge necessary to enter the film industry as screenwriters.

SCRN 208, “Advanced Digital Production,” maintains real-world experienced while teaching advanced team-based production to students who have already completed 107 and 108.

Our most intensive and partnering engagement with LEEP, Creative InterMedia courses for Juniors and Seniors in VPA (along with a proposed CIM concentration) provides opportunities for intensive collaboration in engaged, forward-facing areas of media production. CIM courses identify the real-world collaborative aspects of LEEP in an interdisciplinary setting; bringing together students from all five VPA majors in a single interdisciplinary course.

Screen has added two new CIM courses (with related topics): 208, ”Genre Production Workshop (The Musical)” and 316, “Experimental Production Workshop (Silk Routes).”

It should be noted that although Screen has a major part in Creative InterMedia, the concentration is collaboratively owned by faculty from various VPA areas.

Communities of Effective Practice

EOM – the program’s official club and study group

CCN – Clark Cable Network

clarkscreeners.com – website featuring student video and writings

Creative InterMedia courses – edgy, exploratory, collaborative courses offered to juniors and seniors in all five VPA areas

LEEP Learning Community #1

The Major

Revised, February 2014

Liberal Education & Effective Practice

LEEP Education Answered