

# FILM AND TELEVISION

## Program Overview

Students majoring in Film and Television have access to a wide variety of courses that carefully integrate hands-on production practice with studies in film history, theory, and the work of major film artists. FTV students are taught best professional practices through small, interactive classes in the Department's state-of-the-art digital film and television labs and editing suites. Through class projects and internships, students gain experience in screenwriting, editing, cinematography, and direction/performance methodologies for camera and screen, honing their aesthetic and technical skills in film and television production. To fully complement these skills, FTV students are encouraged to minor in Film and Media Studies (<https://www.rider.edu/academics/colleges-schools/college-liberal-arts-education-sciences/liberal-arts-programs/film-media-studies/>), which is part of the FTV Department. In addition to traditional three-credit courses, students participate in the Department's innovative one-credit workshops taught by practicing industry professionals. These courses not only expose students to specialized niches within the profession, but also provide students with networking opportunities.

Beyond the classroom, students can also participate in a variety of film appreciation and production clubs, such as the Alternative Film Club (<https://www.rider.edu/academics/colleges-schools/college-liberal-arts-education-sciences/liberal-arts-programs/film-media-studies/alternative-film-club/>) and R.U.N., The Rider University Network (<http://runetwork.weebly.com/>). The Department of Film and Television's central location offers students internship opportunities throughout New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia. Rider's semester long program in Los Angeles also allows students a valuable opportunity to live, learn, and intern in one of the major film and media development and production centers of the world.

## Curriculum Overview

The Department of Film and Television curriculum is designed to provide students with a comprehensive education in the production, aesthetics, history, and theory of film and television. Our core integrates filmmaking and film studies courses including two fundamental production courses; Foundations of Film, Television & Radio; Screenplay Fundamentals; and Language of Film Analysis. The curriculum also includes advanced courses in subjects such as film direction, cinematography, global and American film history, film and television writing, film adaptation, studies of a variety of film and television genres, major film directors, animation, documentary, and narrative television production.

## Degree Offered

- B.A. in Film and Television

## Contact

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**Program Website:** Film and Television (<https://www.rider.edu/academics/colleges-schools/college-liberal-arts-sciences/undergraduate/film-television/>)

**Associated Department:** Department of Film & Television

## Related Programs:

- English (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/liberal-arts-sciences/majors-minors-certificates/english/>)
- Theatre (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/westminster-college-arts/fine-performing-arts/majors-minors-certificates/theatre-ba/>)
- Arts and Entertainment Industries Management (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/westminster-college-arts/fine-performing-arts/majors-minors-certificates/arts-entertainment-ind/>)
- Game and Interactive Media Design (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/westminster-college-arts/fine-performing-arts/majors-minors-certificates/gaming-interactive-media-design/>)
- Broadcast Journalism Concentration (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/liberal-arts-sciences/majors-minors-certificates/journalism/#Broadcast>)
- Sports Media (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/liberal-arts-sciences/majors-minors-certificates/sports-media/>)

## Film and Television Major Requirements

(45-54 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
<b>CLAS General Education Curriculum</b>		
See CLAS General Education Curriculum Page ( <a href="http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/liberal-arts-sciences/general_education_requirements/">http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/liberal-arts-sciences/general_education_requirements/</a> )		
<b>Departmental Core (12 Credits)</b>		
<b>Film and Television Major Requirements:</b>		
FTV 135	Filmmaking I	3
FTV 230	Foundations of Film, Television and Radio	3
FTV 238	Screenplay Fundamentals	3
ENG 284/FMS 284	Language of Film Analysis	3
<b>Filmmaking Requirements</b>		<b>15</b>
FTV 231	Film and Television Special Studies <sup>1</sup>	
Select four courses from the list below, with at least one course from the 200-, 300- and 400-levels.		
COM 234/FTV 234	Audio Production	
FTV 235	Filmmaking II	
FTV 243	The Actor and Filmmaker	
FTV 295	Cinematography I	
FTV 333	Media Program Development and Distribution	
FTV 335	Documentary Production	
FTV 402	Directing for Film	
FTV 435	Filmmaking III	
<b>Film History Courses</b>		<b>6</b>
Select two courses: one from Global History and one from American History, plus one from pre-1960 and one from post-1960.		
FMS 250/ENG 280	Global Film History: Origins to 1960	
FMS 251/ENG 281	Global Film History: 1961 to Present	

FMS 252/ENG American Film History: Origins to 1960  
285

FMS 253/ENG American Film History: 1961 to Present  
286

### Film and Television Courses **9**

Select at least three courses; one must be a writing course; one must be at the 300-level.

COM 233 Writing for Broadcast <sup>2</sup>

COM 262 Graphic Imaging for Digital Media

COM 265 3D Graphic Animation

COM 316 Feature Writing <sup>2</sup>

COM 330/FTV Documenting Cultures Through Travel  
330

COM 361 Photography

COM 380 Broadcast News Practicum

COM 391 Communication Criticism <sup>2</sup>

ENG 217 Introduction To Shakespeare

ENG 290 The Short Story

ENG 312 Creative Writing: Screenwriting <sup>2</sup>

ENG 362 The Novel

ENG 381/FMS Studies in Film Genre  
381

ENG 382/FMS Comparative Film Directors  
382

ENG 384/FMS Film Adaptation  
384

FMS 260 Great Performances in Film

FMS 286 Writing Short Screenplays for Digital Cinema <sup>2</sup>

FMS 300 Special Topics in Film and Media Studies

FMS 342 Artists of the Cinema

FTV 236 The Aesthetics of Filmmaking

FTV 291 Documentary Film and Video

FTV 328 Sitcoms and American Culture

FTV 339 Developing The Feature-Length Script

FTV 390 Communication and Society

FTV 392 Media History: Personalities and Trend

FTV 395 Los Angeles Media Experience

### Capstone Courses **3-12**

ENG 484/FMS Seminar in Cinema Studies  
484

FTV 399 The Co-Operative Experience

Total Credits 45-54

<sup>1</sup> FTV 231 must be taken three times for a total of 3 credits, each with a different special topic, to satisfy the requirement.

<sup>2</sup> Indicates a writing course that will satisfy the requirement.

## Film & Television Minor Requirements

The minor in Film and Television provides students with a solid foundation in film and television history, theory, screenwriting, and production. Rider's alumni network and industry connections, and the Department's Semester in Los Angeles Program, allow students to complement traditional classwork with real-world internships in the film and television industry. While broadening a student's appreciation for

film history and aesthetics and developing their video storytelling and production skills, the minor helps prepare students for careers in the film and television industry or for advanced studies in film and television.

(21 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
<b>FTV Minor Core</b>		
FTV 135	Filmmaking I	3
FTV 235	Filmmaking II	3
FTV 238	Screenplay Fundamentals	3
ENG 284/FMS 284	Language of Film Analysis	3
<b>Film History (Select one)</b>		<b>3</b>
FMS 250/ENG 280	Global Film History: Origins to 1960	
FMS 251/ENG 281	Global Film History: 1961 to Present	
FMS 252/ENG 285	American Film History: Origins to 1960	
FMS 253/ENG 286	American Film History: 1961 to Present	
<b>Filmmaking</b>		<b>6</b>
(Select two, with at least one at the 300- or 400-level)		
COM 234/FTV 234	Audio Production	
COM 330/FTV 330	Documenting Cultures Through Travel	
COM 338	Writing for Broadcast II	
COM 380	Broadcast News Practicum	
FTV 230	Foundations of Film, Television and Radio	
FTV 231	Film and Television Special Studies	
FTV 236	The Aesthetics of Filmmaking	
FTV 243	The Actor and Filmmaker	
FTV 295	Cinematography I	
FTV 328	Sitcoms and American Culture	
FTV 333	Media Program Development and Distribution	
FTV 335	Documentary Production	
FTV 395	Los Angeles Media Experience	
FTV 399	The Co-Operative Experience	
FTV 402	Directing for Film	
FTV 435	Filmmaking III	
FMS 260	Great Performances in Film	
FMS 286	Writing Short Screenplays for Digital Cinema	
FMS 300	Special Topics in Film and Media Studies	
FMS 381/ENG 381	Studies in Film Genre	
FMS 382/ENG 382	Comparative Film Directors	
FMS 384/ENG 384	Film Adaptation	
FMS 484/ENG 484	Seminar in Cinema Studies	
Total Credits		21

**Academic Plan of Study**

The following educational plan is provided as a sample only. Rider students who do not declare a major during their freshman year; who change their major; or those who transfer to Rider may follow a different plan to ensure a timely graduation. Each student, with guidance from his or her academic advisor, will develop a personalized educational plan.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Year 1</b>		
<b>Fall Semester</b>		
CMP 120	Seminar in Writing and Rhetoric	3
MTH 102	Finite Mathematics	3
HIS 150	World History to 1500	3
FTV 135	Filmmaking I	3
	Scientific Perspective Course	3
Semester Credit Hours		15
<b>Spring Semester</b>		
CMP 125	Seminar in Writing and Research	3
HIS 151	World History Since 1500	3
COM 104	Speech Communication	3
FTV 230	Foundations of Film, Television and Radio	3
	Social Perspective Course	3
Semester Credit Hours		15
<b>Year 2</b>		
<b>Fall Semester</b>		
FTV 235	Filmmaking II	3
FMS 250	Global Film History: Origins to 1960	3
or	or American Film History: Origins to 1960	
FMS 252		
FMS 284	Language of Film Analysis	3
	Foreign Language 1 of 2 <sup>1</sup>	3
	Aesthetic Perspective: Fine Arts Course	3
Semester Credit Hours		15
<b>Spring Semester</b>		
FTV 238	Screenplay Fundamentals	3
FMS 251	Global Film History: 1961 to Present	3
or	or American Film History: 1961 to Present	
FMS 253		
	Foreign Language 2 of 2 <sup>1</sup>	3
	Scientific Perspective Course	3
	Aesthetic Perspective Course	3
Semester Credit Hours		15
<b>Year 3</b>		
<b>Fall Semester</b>		
	Social Perspective Course	3
	Philosophical Perspective Course	3
	Filmmaking Elective	3
	FTV Elective	3
	Elective Course <sup>2</sup>	3
Semester Credit Hours		15
<b>Spring Semester</b>		
	Filmmaking Elective Courses	6
	FTV Elective Course	3

Elective Courses	6
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Semester Credit Hours	15
<b>Year 4</b>	
<b>Fall Semester</b>	
Filmmaking Elective Course	3
FTV Elective Course	3
Three Elective Courses	9
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Semester Credit Hours	15
<b>Spring Semester</b>	
<b>Select either the Travel Option or the Non-travel Option below:</b>	<b>15</b>
Travel Option:	
FTV 395	Los Angeles Media Experience
FTV 399	The Co-Operative Experience
Non-travel Option:	
COM 399	The Co-Operative Experience
or	or Seminar in Cinema Studies
FMS 484	
Three or four Elective Courses <sup>2</sup>	
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Semester Credit Hours	15
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Total Credit Hours for Graduation	120

<sup>1</sup> For course placement information visit <https://www.rider.edu/offices-services/new-student-orientation/placement-testing-information> (<https://www.rider.edu/offices-services/new-student-orientation/placement-testing-information/>)

<sup>2</sup> Elective credits may be used to complete requirements in a second major or minor.

**Courses and Descriptions**

**FTV 135 Filmmaking I 3 Credits**

Filmmaking I introduces students to basic film and television production theories, techniques, and applications. Students will gain competency in a number of production areas including composition, lighting, filmic storytelling, sound, production planning and editing. As well as gaining practical production experience, students will also be introduced to basic art theory in relation to composition and visual storytelling.

**FTV 202 Global Film & Media Industries 3 Credits**

An introductory survey of the international film and television industry that will provide students with a global perspective of this ever-evolving industry. First, providing a basic foundation of key historical, economic and cultural factors and initiatives impacting and shaping films and television programs, this course will provide students with the tools to better understand the influence that globalization has on the film and television industry and the impact the products of this industry may have throughout the world.

**FTV 221 Animation: History, Art, Industry & Culture 3 Credits**

An introduction to the history of animation in film and television, this course will explore animation as art, industry, and purveyor of culture. Through this course, students will gain a greater appreciation for aesthetics, technology, and the cultural and communication theories impacting and influencing the genre, and gain a greater understanding of the role played by key individuals and companies in the development of both iconic characters and in the shaping of an industry. Students will view a variety of important animated films and television programs and discuss the artistic, technical and narrative developments in animation from the early 20th century to the present. This course will provide students with a more nuanced understanding of the magic of animation and its impact and influence on culture and society throughout the globe.

**FTV 230 Foundations of Film, Television and Radio 3 Credits**

Examines film, television and radio industries, the programs they create and the powerful role they play in society. This course will examine the history, technology, structure, programming and regulation of these industries including issues, trends, and the impact of new and evolving technologies.

**FTV 231 Film and Television Special Studies 1 Credits**

Course descriptions will vary from topic to topic. This course will be offered Pass/Fail.

**FTV 235 Filmmaking II 3 Credits**

This course will build on the basic technical proficiency gained in COM 135 as applied to narrative filmmaking. Working as individuals and in groups, students will develop skills in narrative cinematic storytelling, and gain a basic proficiency in filmmaking theory, techniques and applications. Students will gain competency in a number of production areas including idea generation and scripting, production planning, cinematography, lighting, sound and editing.

**Prerequisite(s):** COM 131.

**FTV 236 The Aesthetics of Filmmaking 3 Credits**

Introduces students to basic terminology, techniques, theories and criticism commonly used in digital filmmaking. Through lecture, class discussion and screenings, students will learn how film theory, criticism and aesthetics impact the filmmaking process. Students will review and analyze films of different genres; the different approaches adopted by filmmakers; and the various elements and techniques that contribute to the creation of powerful and effective films. Aesthetic elements such as production design, mise en scene, cinematography, lighting, editing, sound design and script development will be introduced and practiced.

**FTV 238 Screenplay Fundamentals 3 Credits**

Screenplay Fundamentals will instruct students in how to write for the screen. Students will learn how to convey story and character through the medium of film and television, how to write effective dialogue, and understand the basics of dramatic writing and scene structure.

**Prerequisite:** COM 131.

**FTV 239 YouTube: Content and Culture 3 Credits**

YouTube, one of the most well-known and widely discussed examples of participatory media in the social media environment, is the first generally popular platform for user-created video. Blending theory and practice, this course examines the social, cultural, economic, and political implications of YouTube; the empowerment and pitfalls of the user-generated content it relies on; and the implication of the participatory media which has transformed passive viewers into active producers. Students will learn the historical roots of YouTube, become familiar with modes of media production, and study legal, ethical, and social justice issues related to the creation of channels and videos for YouTube. While the course has a significant theoretical component, students will engage directly in participatory practices by designing and creating course related content for YouTube. Through this course, students will gain a critical understanding of and a greater appreciation for the impacts of user generated video content on social and political participation locally and globally.

**FTV 243 The Actor and Filmmaker 3 Credits**

A practicum course that instructs the student on how actors and directors work together to build a performance. The course will provide on-hands experience in technical aspects of behind and in front of camera processes in capturing an actor's performance, exploring the demands and particularities of acting for the camera. This course will also serve as an introduction to basic acting theories and practices as they relate to how actors work to express a character onscreen. Elements of this course include monologue and scene rehearsal and performance (both multi-camera and single camera), audition techniques (for both actors and directors), and how film directors block and cover a scene. Students will gain experience both behind and in front of the camera, **Prerequisite(s):** COM 131 or FTV 135 for Film/TV majors or THE 110 for Theater majors.

**FTV 250 Television Studio Production I 3 Credits**

This introductory course is designed to expose students to the processes, equipment, production roles, techniques and goals of in-studio television production. Serving as directors, writers, on-camera hosts, etc., students will gain valuable, direct hands-on experience with the technical and creative challenges faced during the various phases of studio production from pre-production planning through actual remote and live studio work. Emphasis will be placed on studio operation and technology; the roles and responsibilities of the production crew; and the pressures faced during the direction of live, multi-camera productions. **Prerequisite(s):** COM 131 or FTV 135.

**FTV 291 Documentary Film and Video 3 Credits**

Surveys the history of documentary film, including reportorial, exploratory, persuasive, symphonic, compilational, reflexive, and fictional traditions through screenings, lectures, and readings. Provides practice in film criticism. Explores philosophical questions about the relationship between non-fiction films and videos and the reality they purport to record. Analyzes ethical problems of filmmaking.

**FTV 295 Cinematography I 3 Credits**

This course introduces the art of cinematography from historical, aesthetic and practical perspectives. Students will learn the principles of cinematic composition, lenses, lighting, and camera operation while studying the work of great cinematographers in film history.

**Prerequisite(s):** COM 131.

**FTV 328 Sitcoms and American Culture 3 Credits**

Provides an overview to the unique and highly structured form of the American television situation comedy. The primary focus will be on history and development with in-depth study of situation comedy themes, characters, and settings. Through lectures, case discussions, in-class assignments, and class projects, students will examine the social and cultural meanings and implications of this incredibly popular and durable genre of programming.

**FTV 330 Documenting Cultures Through Travel 3 Credits**

Offers students, through travel and study, a unique opportunity to gain firsthand experience of a different culture and to learn how to record and document their experiences using multiple media, including print, audio, video, photography and/or the Web. While traveling, students will be required to attend lecture/discussion sessions, site tours, and other planned activities. This experience will be preceded and/or followed by additional academic work to be conducted on campus. Study topics may include aspects of the historical, social, economic, political and aesthetic cultural components appropriate to the location(s) to be visited. The travel component of the course will be scheduled to avoid conflict with normal semester offerings. No foreign language skills are required.

**FTV 333 Media Program Development and Distribution 3 Credits**

Critically analyzes the theory, practice, structure, and function of media program development and distribution. Examines the structure of the field as it relates to programming, the industry and audiences. Studies program categories, formats, genres, trends, and audience measurement and analysis as well as the new and evolving technologies responsible for program development and distribution.

**Prerequisite(s):** FTV 230.

**FTV 335 Documentary Production 3 Credits**

This course serves as an introduction to documentary filmmaking. Students will be introduced to a wide variety of documentary styles and approaches and learn the basics of documentary production. Working in teams, students will gain firsthand experience with on-camera interviews, conducting documentary research, using practical and source lighting, scripting, and working with a variety of source material in constructing their own short documentary projects.

**Prerequisite(s):** COM 331.

**FTV 339 Developing The Feature-Length Script 3 Credits**

Developing the Feature Length Script will instruct students how to write a full-length film or television program. Students will learn the mechanics of 3-act and 7-act structure, and during the course they will develop a logline, synopsis, treatment, and sample scenes of a full-length project.

**Prerequisite(s):** FTV 238.

**FTV 343 Actor and Filmmaker Practicum 1 Credits**

A workshop class designed to give acting and filmmaking students an opportunity to collaborate on narrative film and television projects. During this class students will work closely with the directors on building compelling performances for the screen. Students will gain practical experience with auditioning, blocking of scenes, developing their characters and techniques for working effectively and efficiently with a director and crew.

**Prerequisite(s):** FTV 135 or THE 110.

**FTV 390 Communication and Society 3 Credits**

Examines in a topical manner the influence of communication upon significant issues and movements affecting people and society. Investigates interpersonal and mass media factors as they relate to a major issue such as changing sex roles, radicalism, racism, evangelism, election campaigns, and technology. May be taken more than once with different emphasis.

**FTV 392 Media History: Personalities and Trend 3 Credits**

Presents in a topical manner the history of the media from various perspectives, seeking to place the material into a meaningful economic, cultural, political, and/or social context. Different issues and related individuals are examined, such as the golden age of radio, motion picture economics, and media empire builders, with a view toward understanding their significant impact on the development and functioning of the media today. This course may be taken more than once with a different emphasis.

**FTV 395 Los Angeles Media Experience 3 Credits**

This course is a practical exploration of the workings of the contemporary film and media industries in Los Angeles, California, and is designed as a required compliment for students enrolled in Rider's Semester in Los Angeles program. Focused on both major studios and independent production companies, this course explores how media are created, distributed and consumed in the U.S. and around the world. Students will examine the role of creativity, economics, an ever-evolving technology and the impact they have on how this industry operates today and where it may be heading into the future. The class will stay current by regularly reading trade publications and, through guest lectures, have many opportunities to hear directly from industry professionals about issues and challenges facing the field.

**Prerequisite(s):** POI (restricted to students enrolled in the Department of Film and Television Semester in Los Angeles program).

**FTV 399 The Co-Operative Experience 3-12 Credits**

This course provides a significant work experience to support the professional development of the student and complement theoretical and classroom learning. Students will be assessed based on measures as defined in a placement contract mutually agreed upon by the sponsoring faculty member, the organization representative of the placement site, and the student. Approximately 360 hours of work will be required as students work typically four days per week over at least eight weeks. The proposed placement contract requires departmental approval and the approval of the appropriate office of the dean. It is expected that the Co-op program consume the student's academic load for the semester. Final placement will be determined by the organization where the student will work. Rider University does not guarantee that every student applying for a co-op will earn a co-op placement. Contact the appropriate department for additional information. **Prerequisite(s):** junior standing and 2.75 GPA at the time of registration; .

**Corequisite(s):** IND 398 The Co-operative Experience Seminar, IND 398 and (dept) 399 combined cannot exceed 15 credits.

**FTV 402 Directing for Film 3 Credits**

This course approaches directing both creatively and critically, and examines the role and importance of the director to the filmmaking process. The transformation of the written script into a film is explored through readings, viewing and analyzing the films of accomplished directors. Lectures and exercises illustrated with film clips and readings emphasize plot development, script analysis, developing storyboards and shot lists, rehearsal, blocking, collaborating with talent and production crew, and using the camera to effectively capture action and performance. Students will gain an effective understanding of the role of the director through the various stages of film production, and be provided the opportunity to demonstrate and cultivate his/her effectiveness as a director through individual and group assignments.

**Prerequisite(s):** FTV 235 and COM 338.

**FTV 435 Filmmaking III 3 Credits**

This is an intensive hands-on course in advanced digital filmmaking. Students will gain proficiencies in a number of filmmaking areas including production planning, aesthetics, scripting, script breakdown, camera movement, selecting and directing talent, creating scenes and sequences, visualizing action, establishing mood and conflict, as well as advanced lighting, sound and digital editing techniques. The students' use of high definition digital imaging systems as a medium for narrative cinematography will be developed and refined. In addition, students will explore how filmmaking techniques and technology can impact the visual storytelling process. Students will work cooperatively in groups, modeling the interdependent structure of professional film crews. Throughout the class, there will be an important integration of theory and practice which will enable students to produce meaningful film projects that will not only be technically effective, but strong in content and context as well.

**Prerequisite(s):** FTV 235.

**FTV 490 Independent Study: Research and Creative Expression 1-4 Credits**

Independent Research and Study allows juniors and seniors in good academic standing to investigate topics of interest under faculty supervision. Projects must be approved by the faculty member, department chairperson, and academic dean no later than the third week of the semester in which the project is to be conducted. Only one project can be scheduled in a semester, and for no more than four semester hours; up to 12 semester hours of independent research and study may be counted toward graduation. Note that individual departments may have additional restrictions.

**FTV 491 Internship in Film and TV 1-4 Credits**

Places qualified students in a professional area related directly to their communication training. Students may intern in a communication position with a corporation, small business, media outlet, public relations agency, non-profit organization, political party, sports organization, or other similar organizations. A minimum of 50 hours of internship per credit is required. Written reports, a final project, and supervisor evaluations are used to analyze and evaluate the experience. For students majoring in the Department of Communication and Journalism only, primarily juniors and seniors. No more than two internships are permitted for each student; exceptions may be made. The deadline for registration is the first Friday of the semester.

**Prerequisite(s):** 3.2 GPA and permission of instructor.