Film Studies Ph.D. Exam

Overall Expectations

For this examination in film studies, students should prepare to display facility, including historical knowledge, in diverse (a) theoretical and critical approaches, (b) genres and styles, and (c) production contexts. Examples of these three categories include:

a. feminist, postcolonial, psychoanalytic, Marxist, post-structuralist, queer, semiotic, and auteurist approaches;
b. silent film, realism, expressionism, avant garde, melodrama/women’s film, popular genres (e.g. romantic comedy, horror, science fiction, western, noir), animation, anime, war film, social issue film, documentary;
c. Hollywood, independent, and international film.

In addition, your evaluators will want to see balance and synthesis in overall discussion of film form and content.

- Form includes such elements as lighting, sound, editing, and mise en scène.
- Content includes such elements as theme, character, and narrative.

Overall, evaluators will want to see critically, historically, and culturally informed analysis and close readings of films. Show what you have learned and display your creative interpretive abilities.

Representative Readings

Adaptation

Authorship and Auteurism *

* Students should also explore studies of individual directors and other key players in film history

Criticism


**Documentary**


**Gender, Sexuality, and Film**


Thornham, Sue, ed. *Feminist Film Theory: A Reader*. NYU Press, 1999.

**Genre Studies * * *


Silver, Alain, and James Ursini, eds. *Film Noir Reader*. Limelight, 1996.


* Students should also explore studies of additional film genres and subgenres

**Film History - U.S.**

**Nationalism and International Cinema**
Williams, Alan, ed. *Film and Nationalism.* Rutgers UP, 2002.

**Race**


Stars and Stardom

Theory

Journals
Camera Obscura
Cineaste
Cinema Journal
Film and History
Film Comment
Film Quarterly
Historical Journal of Film, Radio, and Television
Literature/Film Quarterly
Post Script
Quarterly Review of Film and Video
Screen
Sight and Sound
Wide Angle