

M O N T A N A B O A R D O F R E G E N T S

LEVEL I REQUEST FORM

Item No.:	135-1010+R0507	Date of Meeting:	May 30 – June 1, 2007
Institution:	The University of Montana - Missoula		
Program Title:	Film Studies As A Fourth Option For English Department Majors		

Level I proposals are those that may be approved by the Commissioner of Higher Education or the Commissioner's designee. The approval of such proposals will be conveyed to the Board of Regents at the next regular meeting of the board. The institution must file the request with the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education by means of a memo to the Deputy Commissioner.

- A. Level I action requested (check all that apply):** Level I proposals include campus initiatives typically characterized by (a) minimal costs; (b) clear adherence to approved campus mission; and (c) the absence of significant programmatic impact on other institutions within the Montana University System and Community Colleges.
- 1. Re-titling existing majors, minors, options and certificates; (e.g. from B.S. in Mechanized Agriculture to B.S. in Agricultural Operations Technology);
 - 2. Eliminating existing majors, minors, options and certificates via a Program Termination Checklist;
 - 3. Adding new minors or certificates where there is a major;
 - 4. Adding new minors or certificates where there is an option in a major;
 - 5. Departmental mergers and name changes;
 - 6. Program revisions; and
 - 7. Distance delivery of previously authorized degree programs.
- B. Level I with Level II documentation:** With Level II documentation circulated to all campus chief academic officers in advance, the Commissioner or designee may propose additional items for inclusion in the Level I process. For these items to move forward, the Commissioner or designee must reach consensus with the chief academic officers. When consensus is not achieved, the Commissioner or designee will move the item to the Level II review process.
- 1. Options within an existing major or degree;
 - 2. Eliminating organizational units within larger institutions such as departments, divisions and colleges or schools *with the exception of the five Colleges of Technology where changes require Board action;*
 - 3. Consolidating existing programs and/or degrees.
- C. Temporary Certificate or A.A.S. degree programs:** Certificate or Associate of Applied Science Degree Programs may be submitted as Level I proposals, with memo and backup documentation, when they are offered in cooperation with and/or at the request of private or public sector partners and the decision point to offer the program is not consistent with the regular Board of Regents program approval process. Level I approval for programs under this provision will be limited to two years. Continuation of a program beyond the two years will require the normal program approval process as Level II Proposals.

All other Certificate or Associate Degree programs may be placed on submission at any Board of Regents meeting. They will be placed on action agendas at subsequent meetings. All campuses agree to insure that all other campuses receive program information well in advance of submission.

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Specify Request:

The English Department of the University of Montana - Missoula together with the University of Montana Film Committee propose that Film Studies be placed in the English Department as a fourth option for English majors (in addition to the Literature, Creative Writing and Teaching Emphasis options).

MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Institution: University of Montana--Missoula

Program Title: Film Studies Option in English

1. How does this program advance the campus' academic mission and fit priorities?

This program fulfills the mission by "providing unique educational experiences through the integration of the liberal arts, graduate study, and professional training with international and interdisciplinary emphases." By being the first program to approach the field through theory and criticism, as well as presenting opportunities to explore both Native American and international film genres, this program will result in educating "competent and humane professionals and informed, ethical, and engaged citizens of local and global communities."

2. How does this program fit the Board of Regents' goals and objectives?

We believe that this option will "serve the students of the University of Montana through the delivery of high quality, accessible educational opportunities, while actively participating in the preservation and advancement of Montana's economy and society." Film is a significant and popular component of our society-- both in terms of its influence and economic potential. This option will increase awareness of film's importance and foster not only a critical appreciation of film, but also knowledge of the workings of the film industry.

3. How does this program support or advance Montana's needs and interests?

Although both MSU and UM have Media Arts programs, both are production-oriented, and neither offers an option in theory and/or criticism. We believe that it is time that our University system offer such a degree, and UM already has all of the faculty and the majority of the classes to do so. This Film Studies degree promotes media literacy within our state, and given the prevalence of the visual media, this is an essential offering.

4. How will this program contribute to economic development in Montana? (Note projected annual economic impact both regionally and statewide.)

Film Studies programs tend to be very popular, and we are anticipating that our Film Studies option will increase UM's out-of-state enrollment. This option will also facilitate the Governor's commitment to promoting the film industry in Montana.

5. What is the program's planned capacity?

• Break-even point?	30 FTE students
• Enrollments / year?	100 majors in this option after 3 years
• Graduates / year?	25
• MT jobs / year?	15

6. Resource Allocation:

• Total program budget?	\$ 0
• Faculty FTE?	1.0 - Negotiations are underway to assign Sean O'Brien, currently teaching full time in Philosophy, a full-time lectureship in English. All other Film Studies faculty will remain in their respective departments, and continue to teach film courses offered by these departments but included in the Film Studies curriculum.
• Staff FTE?	\$0

7. Does this program require new resources? Yes No

If yes, what is the amount? \$ _____

8. How will the campus fund the program?

The option will be funded through the existing College of Arts and Science budget. All of the faculty and all but two of the required courses for the option are in place.

9. If internal reallocation is necessary, name the sources.

none

Proposal for a Film Studies Option in the English

Department

The Request

The English Department together with The University of Montana Film Committee propose that Film Studies be placed in the English Department as a fourth option for English majors (in addition to the Literature, Creative Writing and Teaching Emphasis options).

The UM Film Committee, established approximately 30 years ago, has successfully promoted the development of a wide range of film courses throughout the curriculum. The formalization of this curriculum is long overdue, and this proposal is the culmination of the committee's efforts to structure the already existing film courses (with the addition of just two new required courses) into what we believe is a solid undergraduate film-oriented BA degree.

Description of the Proposed Option

A solid academic program in film is one that acknowledges the various cultures and theoretical traditions that have informed the development of the medium. Consequently, the proposed curriculum has an interdisciplinary bent. In deepening their understanding of film conventions, history and criticism, students in Film Studies will also deepen their understanding of a range of disciplines from which the curriculum draws.

More specifically, the Film Studies curriculum is designed to:

- 1) Give the student a solid background in film history and the various approaches to film criticism;
- 2) Provide students with the theoretical sophistication needed to acquire a solid grasp of the various approaches to film theory;
- 3) Expose students to films from other cultures and traditions;
- 4) Heighten students' media literacy by sharpening their ability to critically assess images.

In achieving these goals, the curriculum draws from:

ENLT/ENFM – (ENFM is the Film Studies option designation proposed by the English Department.) Students will take particular literature courses, and one or more courses involving a comparison of literary works and their filmic counterparts (ENLT/LS227, ENLT/LS 325, ENLT 320).

MCLG - Students taking French, German, Spanish and/or Latin American film courses will be introduced to quality films as well as the cultures that have produced them.

PHIL - Students will be encouraged to take PHIL 340 (Aesthetics) to enrich their understanding of both pre-and post-film aesthetic theory and its influence on both film production and criticism. They will also be encouraged to take PHIL 444 (Topics in the Philosophy of Art).

MAR - Students will learn the principles involved in constructing a film from the point of view of production (MAR 101). Production-oriented courses deepen students' understanding of film and enhance their capacity for criticism.

NAS - Students will be encouraged to take NAS 344 (Native Americans and Film) recently submitted to ASCRC for approval.

Suitability of Placement

The Film Committee believes that the English Department is the best possible placement for Film Studies for the following reasons:

1. There are currently four English faculty members on the Film Committee who teach film courses (John Glendening, Phil Fandozzi, Casey Charles, and Katie Kane), in addition to a significant number of faculty members in English who are eager to teach and/or develop film courses.
2. The curriculum would dovetail nicely with all three options currently housed in English:
 - a. The Teaching With Film Institute (TWFI), which we plan to incorporate into Film Studies, will be a helpful supplement to the teaching program. TWFI is an Institute designed to help high school and college instructors use film effectively in the classroom.

- b. The recently developed "Writing about Film" course will be used as an experimental ENEX 101 section.
- c. Faculty in the Creative Writing emphasis may want to develop a course in screenwriting (given the approval and cooperation of the Media Arts Department.) Such a course might be developed in conjunction with as well as cross-listed with Media Arts, thereby expanding both programs and forging interdisciplinary connections.
- d. Film and literature make great bedfellows, and rather than substituting for the written text, film can be used effectively (via comparison, for example) to draw students into the written text.

Documented Need

The UM Film Committee believes that the development of Film Studies is long overdue. Although both MSU and UM have Media Arts programs, both are practice-oriented, and neither offers an option in theory and/or criticism. Given the prevalence and significance of film in our society, we believe that it is time that UM offer a degree that explores this significance and promotes a critical approach to film. There has been a high demand for film courses in recent years, and we have included enrollment figures from our Intro to Film courses (LS 180) from the past five years.

Additional Required Courses Needed

Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the program and the significant number of film courses already listed in the UM catalog, the Film Studies Option can get started with an addition of just two required courses. We have at least three qualified faculty currently on the Film Studies Committee willing to teach these courses. (See attached course proposal forms.)

1. ENFM 330 (History of Film)
2. ENFM 427 (Film Theory)

Additional Elective Courses:

Native American Studies is petitioning ASCRC to add NAS 344 (Native Americans and Film) to the course catalog, and the English Department is attempting to add (in addition to the two film courses listed above) ENLT 380 (Topics in Irish Studies). ENLT 380 will be the course number under which the Irish/American film course will be taught. Both of these courses will be included as Film Studies electives if and when they are approved by ASCRC.

Additional Faculty Requirements

All of the faculty needed to staff the curriculum are already in place, and have taught or are currently teaching the courses they will be assigned in Film Studies. Although we are not requesting new hires for the option's inception, discussions are underway to assign Sean O'Brien, currently an adjunct professor in Philosophy, a lectureship in English. Professor O'Brien has successfully taught a wide range of film courses at UM.

Relationship to Other Campus Programs

As stated earlier, given its interdisciplinary nature, Film Studies will involve a wide range of disciplines. We are happy to report that we are planning this emphasis in full cooperation with Media Arts. Rick Hughes, chairman of the Media Arts Department, has expressed support for the placement of Film Studies in English, and Michael Murphy, a MAR faculty member, is a member of the Film Studies planning committee. (See attached e-mail from Rick Hughes.) Media Arts has recently developed a major that offers two tracks, both involving production. Should Media Arts want to develop a third track in the future that emphasizes media theory, the UM Film Committee is committed to fully supporting that emphasis.

All other departments whose courses are listed in the curriculum have agreed to allow us to include these courses in the curriculum. (See signatures at the end of the proposal.)

Relationship to Other Institutions

Montana State University in Bozeman offers a BA in Media and Theater Arts with options, among others, in Motion Pictures and Video. We believe that the proposed Film Studies Program neither duplicates nor threatens MSU's program in any way. Although their major offers theory courses, it is primarily a

production program, and ours has a theoretical/analytical emphasis. We believe that adding a program at UM will offer the large number of aspiring film students an additional choice without disrupting the program in Bozeman.

Accreditation Status

There are no accrediting agencies that assess Film Studies programs. Our option will be included in the English Department's evaluation by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges (NASC).

Assessment Plan

Students will be required to compile an ongoing portfolio of their written work over the course of their academic career. All faculty will have access to the students' former work in order to help them address needs and challenges faced by these students. There will be an intermediate assessment of student performance in film classes and a standardized exam that will be administered in all 300 level film classes. At the end of their academic career, all students will be given an exit interview to determine knowledge of the field and evaluation of the option.

The film faculty will engage in yearly retreats to discuss Film Studies problems and successes. A program review will take place every five years.

Students must achieve a 3.0 in introductory courses (ENFM/LS180 & ENFM/LS 230) to move on to higher level courses. They must demonstrate proficiency in writing and knowledge of the basic terminology and genres of film, in addition to this genre's relationship to the literature upon which it is based. Criteria for writing will follow ASCRC guidelines.

Grading: Successful students must demonstrate:

1. understanding and application of film theory and history
2. excellence in writing and research
3. understanding of the vital relationship between film and literature
4. growth in artistic/analytical skill

Impact on Facilities

The only potential additional impact on facilities posed by the Film Studies option would be the increased use of the University Theater for certain film courses. The UM Film Committee will work out an agreement for the use of the University Theater for specific classes and/or special film showings.

Impact on Other Departments

As stated earlier, we have developed the Film Studies curriculum with the full support and input from the Media Arts Department. We believe that MAR students will benefit from our program by having the opportunity to take film theory courses not offered in their major.

We are an interdisciplinary option within English, drawing courses and faculty from MCLG, Philosophy, Native American Studies and Media Arts. As stated earlier, all but two of the required courses are in place, and they are taught on a regular basis.

We will encourage additional faculty with film expertise to offer courses in their own disciplines. This option encourages students to explore related areas (history, sociology, anthropology, etc.) and to double major with other departments.

Cost Analysis

There will be no impact on current budgets; faculty and resources are in place.

Proposed Film Studies Curriculum**Required courses:** (total of 18 credits)

ENFM/LS 180 – Intro to Film (3 credits)

ENLT/LS 227 – Film as Literature, Literature as Film (3 credits)

ENLT 301 – Applied Literary Criticism (3 credits)

*ENLT 320 – Shakespeare and Film (3 credits)

A 3-credit upper division History of Film course—ENFM 330-- to be submitted to ASCRC for approval.

A 3-credit 400 level Film Theory seminar—ENFM 427-- to be submitted to ASCRC for approval.

*Taught every other year under 320 or submitted as a new course.

Students would be required to take 27 credits from the following selection of courses:

MAR 101 – Introduction to Media Arts (3 credits)

MCLG 222/LS 361 – German Cinema (3 credits)

MCLG 338/LS 338 – French Cinema (3 credits)

MCLG 358/LS 358 – Latin-American Civilization Through Literature and Film (3 credits)

SPAN 359 – Spanish-American Civilization Through Literature and Film (3 credits)

ENLT 325/LS 356 – Studies in Literature and Film (3 credits)

ENFM/LS 38 – Studies in Film (3 credits): This course number will be used for courses that focus on genre, directors and “special topics” in film. It may be taken more than once as long as the content of the course differs.

PHIL 340 – Aesthetics (3 credits)

PHIL 444 – Topics in Philosophy of Art (3 credits)

NAS 344 – Native Americans and Film (3 credits) to be submitted to ASCRC for approval (3 credits)

ENLT 380 – Topics in Irish Studies (Irish/American Film will be taught under this course number (to be submitted to ASCRC for approval).

ENT 442 – Teaching Oral Language and Media Literacy (3 credits)

LS 180 (Intro to Film) Enrollment Figures*

Semester	Subject	Course	Section	Actual Enrollment
200070	LS	180	1	58
200150	LS	180	1	5
200330	LS	180L	1	59
200430	LS	180L	1	72
200570	LS	180L	1	66
200670	LS	180L	1	59

**Please note that the semester that only five students enrolled was a summer semester.*

Member of the UM Film Committee:

John Glendening, English

Casey Charles, English

Phil Fandozzi, English

Kathleen Kane, English

Angelica Lawson, NAS

Clairy Loisel, MCLG, Spanish

Michel Valentin, MCLG, French

Bob Acker, MCLG, German

Sean O'Brien, Philosophy

This proposal was reviewed and approved by the affected departments as follows:

Department Name: Department of English	Date: 9/29/06
Department Name: Department of Modern and Classical Languages & Literatures	Date: 9/25/06
Department Name: Department of Native American Studies	Date: 9/25/06
Department Name: Media Arts	Date: 9/25/06
Department Name: Department of Philosophy	Date: 9/25/06
Department Name: Liberal Studies Program	Date: 9/25/06

In addition the deans of the following Schools/Colleges reviewed and approved the proposal:
Dean of: College of Arts & Sciences Date: 10/2/06

The proposal was reviewed and approved by the Faculty Senate at the University of Montana:
Date: 2/08/07

[No outside consultants were employed for the development of this proposal.]

From: rick hughes [mailto:rh167284e@mail1.umt.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2006 1:36 PM
To: Sean O'Brien
Subject: Re: film studies program

Sean:

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you. After speaking with the faculty and the Dean, we all recognize the advantage to having a film studies program that would compliment the curriculum that we currently offer. Your proposal seems to fit the bill and we would have no problem seeing your program get established. Michael Murphy has expressed interest in getting together with you to offer any advice or suggestions that you might look for. We support your development and we look forward to seeing expanded opportunities for our students.

Good luck.

Rick Hughes
Director
Media Arts Program