Comparative Media Studies (CMS)

CMS 201. Introduction to Comparative Media. (4)
The course introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of Comparative Media Studies. Students will compare a wide range of media technologies, including audio recordings, print media, film, television, texting, video games, social media, e-commerce apps, weather satellites, and medical imaging technology. Students will examine how such technologies are used in different cultural and historical contexts. One hour of the course is designated as a lab hour to allow students to use different media technologies.

CMS 225. Linking Film and New Media. (3)
This course will consider the challenge new media present to cinema’s primacy, but also the ways in which cinema survives and thrives in a digital age. While acknowledging what is unique to different new media forms, we will also identify the aspects of new media that are not fully “new” by examining their dependence on styles, structures, narratives, and even actual footage from cinema and other “old” media. Conversely, we will uncover how new media have reshaped cinema through influences such as CGI, video games, and digital editing.
Prerequisite: CMS/FST 201.
Cross-listed with FST.

CMS 301. Comparative Approaches to Media Studies. (3)
Introduces students to aesthetic, cultural, historical, political, economic, and media effects approaches in media studies, and describes how these various approaches pose problems related to the interrelationships between media texts, audiences, technologies and industries, and the wider social worlds in which they are embedded. Students are exposed to the basic methodologies associated with these approaches - semiotics, ethnography, historical method, grounded theory and quantitative analysis - and learn how these methods are used to investigate questions about human engagements with media.

CMS 350. Special Topics in Comparative Media Studies. (3)
Students will build upon and apply key concepts in the comparative study of media to a special topic.

CMS 385. Media Geographies. (3)
Explores contemporary media infrastructures, representations, virtual and augmented realities, and communicative practices that describe our world and create spaces of social action.
Cross-listed with GEO.

CMS 401. Senior Seminar in Comparative Media Studies. (3)
Advanced exploration of topics in comparative media studies.
Prerequisite: CMS 201.

CMS 477. Independent Studies. (0-5)