

CAL POLY
Extended, Professional & Continuing Education

COLLABORATIVE PARTNER
SUMMER SPRINGBOARD

Film Studies

New student admissions for Summer 2025 are open.

Program Highlights

- Learn to construct an argument about what a film's sounds and images mean and how it structures and achieves its meanings.
- Receive an introduction to the theories, methods, and concerns of film and media studies as a discipline
- Learn the basics of film analysis and apply these tools while watching teen films
- Plan a film festival

2025 Dates

- Session 1: July 6 - July 18

Academic Program Overview

Have you ever considered the impact films have on shaping ideas about identity within society or how culture influences characters in film? Film Studies majors develop critical thinking, research, writing and communication skills by studying film. Whether or not you plan a career behind or in front of the camera, these skills are transferrable to many career paths. In this course we will approach film studies and critique from the relatable lens of teen cinema.

Teen films both idealize and demonize adolescents, while mirroring and shaping societal expectations and fears about teen identities and roles. We will take a critical cultural studies approach to the analysis of representations of teens in film and consider the U.S. cultural values these images illuminate. This course provides an introductory survey of teen films as a distinct art form that has the ability to reflect, critique, reshape, and impact society and culture.

Excursions

Students may screen a film at the local Palm Theater and meet with local film festival representatives.

Instructors

Dr. Emily Ryalls, Associate Professor
Cal Poly SLO

Emily Ryalls is an Associate Professor in the Interdisciplinary Studies in the Liberal Arts Department. She is a recipient of the 2022-2023 Distinguished Teaching Award. Her research and teaching interests are in the areas of critical/cultural studies and feminist media studies. Her book, The Culture of Mean: Representing Victims and Bullies in Popular Culture, is the first sustained feminist critique of the contemporary bullying narrative in media.

Tuition Information:

Residential Students

- Includes: all meals, lodging, excursions, academic course, weekend excursions
- Excludes: optional airport pickup and drop-off service (available for an additional fee)
- Price: $5,298

Commuter Students

- Includes: lunch, academic course, excursions, programming from 9am to 5pm, Monday-Friday
- Excludes: lodging, breakfast, dinner, weekend excursions
  - Weekend excursions can be added on for $125 per day
- Price: $2,998

Supplements:

- Application fee: starting at $99 (mandatory, nonrefundable)
- Tuition Protection Plan: Allows for cancellation for any reason up until the day of the program. Click here for more info.

More info on Airport Transfer

More info on Unaccompanied Minor Service

Apply Now

Course Structure

There are nine 3-hour class sessions over the two-week course. During week one, students have class from 9am-12pm, Monday - Friday. During week two, students have class from 9am-12pm Monday through Thursday. Wednesday afternoons are dedicated to additional academic time (excursions, speakers).

Typical Schedule

8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Academic Course
Noon	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Academic Excursion/ Recreational Activity
3:30 p.m.	College Readiness Workshops or True You
5:00 p.m	Commuter Students Depart
6:00 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 p.m.	Clubs
10:30 p.m.	Mentor Check-In

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