

Interdisciplinary Major Proposal: Cinematography

Since the age of eleven, I have been fascinated with film. My parents gave me my first Hi-8 camcorder and I set to work making amateur films with my friends. Before long, I knew that filmmaking was my forte. In my late high school years, I set up my own business in Dallas where I worked at home creating and editing videos for various customers from the area. I had applied to study film at Columbia College in Chicago, but it just didn't feel right going that far away from home and studying in a slightly unsure field. My eyes turned to Hendrix. I love the idea of a liberal arts education being incorporated into whatever particular field of work one is studying. I felt that by coming here, I would get the education I need for life after college and into graduate school by receiving that traditional well-rounded liberal arts education I've always needed; by being immersed in such an engaging and eye-opening atmosphere, I would be challenged enough to learn and interpret real world issues and ideals.

Various faculty at Hendrix have already acknowledged my achievements as a filmmaker, and I work with Dean Wiltgen (quite regularly) by filming and editing videos for school functions. This year, I helped found the V.I.P. (Video Immersion Project) Committee, and I assisted in launching the first annual Red Brick Film Festival here at Hendrix. In my next two years at Hendrix, I will be working for Media Relations by making archival videos for the Hendrix website and records to help promote Hendrix in a wider context that will hopefully reach out to more high school seniors. I may even turn these endeavors into an Odyssey credit in the near future.

I chose to attend Hendrix because I wanted an engaging educational experience that would inspire me to further pursue my dreams after graduation in graduate school. I feel that if I know about the theory of film, what it takes to run a business, and how to write and direct films, then I will be in good shape when it comes time to apply to graduate programs. I have chosen each of these eleven classes carefully to satisfy what I need to know as a freelance filmmaker after graduation and in graduate school. The areas of study I chose to include are cinematography, electronics, business, writing, photography, theory, and directing courses. By studying a large assortment of relevant classes

Charles Wallace

for my major, I know that I will have the necessary preparation I need for my continued studying of filmmaking. Because no filmmaking classes are offered here at Hendrix, I applied and was accepted to the Accademia dell'Arte filmmaking program in Arezzo, Italy for the summer of 2010. I spent five weeks studying film there, and learning the intricacies of lighting, the use of sound, directing, and editing. I was taught how to use these various fields of work in the real world, and I learned how to actually produce, film, and edit my own film from scratch. I learned the whole movie making process from top to bottom, and finished the courses with a very nice 25 minute Italian film complete with subtitles. These courses named "Digi-Realism" do count for Hendrix credit, and will amount to six credits in all—that's one and a half semesters of classes in one summer intensive.

My capstone will be comprised of planning, writing, casting, directing, editing, and rendering my own 70 minute film from scratch—implementing the knowledge I have gained in the below named courses. I plan on making this capstone into a SP Odyssey credit as well, and will have a public showing of this short film at the end of my Spring semester of my senior year. I will coordinate all of this with Dr. Miller and Dr. McKim, who will determine the letter grade for this project.

Major Requirements:

1. FILM 120 Digi-Realism 1 (Summer 2010)
2. FILM 130 Digi-Realism 2 (Summer 2010)
3. CSCI 135 Robotics Explorations Studio (Spring 2010)
4. BUSI 200 Fundamentals of Accounting and Business 1 (Fall 2009)
5. ENGF 269 Introduction to Film Studies (Fall 2010)
6. ARTS 350 Intermediate Photography (Fall 2010)
7. ENGL 358 African Film (Spring 2010)
8. ENGL 381 Film Theory or another FILM 300 level (Fall 2011)
9. TART 390 Advanced Playwriting (Fall 2010)
10. TART 430 Stage Directing (Fall 2011)
11. ARTS 499 Independent Study (Fall 2011) [CAPSTONE]

Current Status: Junior

Faculty Committee:

Dr. Miller, *chair*

Dr. McKim

