



Cinema in New York City

Portland State Film - Summer Program

Portland State University 2024

Program Director: Prof. Dustin Morrow

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Introduction

New York City may be the only city in the United States to be truly global in the impact of its political, financial and social cultures. Few cities in the world can compete with the diversity of cultural experiences that it offers. The city is an icon of contemporary civic life. Portland State Film's *Cinema in New York City* summer program is an intensive program that will immerse students in the filmic culture of the nation's largest metropolis. Through tours, site visits, guest speakers, field exercises, masterclasses, lectures and screenings, students will learn about the cinematic, artistic, political, social and cultural histories of New York and find ways to tell the city's story through their own creative work and research projects.

Students will investigate New York's distinct neighborhoods, its institutions and organizations, its people and its history through narrative and nonfiction creative work, and through the critical study of the city's cinema culture. New York is the world's media capital, and there is no city more ideal for students of film and media to visit and to work on creative projects. Some students may even choose to lay the groundwork for future internships, or explore the possibility of relocating to or visiting New York to work in the global media industries for which it provides so many incredible opportunities.

Coursework

The students will take two courses in the program, for 8 total credit hours.

FILM 384 Topics in American Cinema and Culture: "New York on Film"

Through a combination of lectures, screenings, readings, site visits and guest speakers, this course will provide the contextual, historical, and critical background on the city's long history in filmmaking, filmgoing, and scholarly film culture. As part of this course we may visit the Museum of the Moving Image, NBC/30 Rock, Jim Henson Workshop, MOMA, the Met, 40 Acres and a Mule, and A24. We may also experience quintessential New York filmgoing experiences at theaters like Film Forum, Lincoln Center, Anthology Film Archives, and BAM.

We may chat one-on-one with legendary film icon Kathleen Turner, visit the set of Sesame Street, and explore NYC television history at the Paley Center. Students will also keep a screening journal in which they consider the works of iconic New York filmmakers like Spike Lee, Martin Scorsese, Sidney Lumet, and Jonathan Demme.

FILM360 Topics in Film Production: "Production in the City"

New York is a city of neighborhoods. Students will be challenged to explore the city's neighborhoods as they are experienced by the people who live in them, the tourists who visit them, and the industries and institutions that have made them a home. They will examine the relationship between the neighborhoods and New York as a whole. And they will tell stories of the people and city through their own creative work, stories that attempt to answer such questions as "What does it mean to be a New Yorker?" and "What does New York mean to America and to the world in 2024?"

This course is designed to be malleable, so that students can work on projects that best fit the direction of their Film major (or other major, into which they are incorporating work in Film), and their skill level with technology. Past students in this program have created photo essays, screenplays, websites, audio documentaries, and multimedia projects. The students should come out of this course with portfolio-quality projects that will serve them in their goals beyond graduation, whether that's the pursuit of work in professional production markets, securing funds for a production or a research project, or applying to graduate school in film, communications, business, history, law, or any number of fields of study.

Due to the period spent in New York being relatively brief, students will use their time there primarily for the gathering of raw material, whether that's footage, photographs, audio, or some other media. Once back in

Portland, students will use the rest of the summer term to work independently on the post-production of their projects.

Students may have the option to present their projects to the public in a formal screening at PSU. After many years of research and firsthand experience in the professionalization of the study abroad experience, Prof. Morrow has learned how to help students maximize the work they do in study away programs to position it in a professional portfolio or prepare it for use in the application for graduate study.

Eligibility

All Film majors and minors are eligible to enroll in the program. The program is also open to non-Film majors, but non-Film majors will need to secure permission from Prof. Morrow to enroll in the courses. This is a simple process and can be done entirely online. Please email Prof. Morrow at morrow4@pdx.edu.

Program Dates

The program will be offered in Summer 2024. The travel dates will be:

Depart from PDX 6/22/24

Classes Start 6/24/24

Classes End 7/5/24

Return to PDX 7/6/24

Projects Due 8/18/24

Students are invited to travel early to or stay after the program in New York, but must be present for the program's class dates (6/24-7/5). Housing is only provided by the program for the program dates (6/22-7/6).

Weekly Schedule

The schedule will vary greatly from day-to-day, depending on what we are slated to do that day (site visit, field exercise, tour, guest speaker, etc.). The goal will be several hours a day of time together as a class, with the rest of the day devoted to the students' individual projects and research. Generally, we will spend the mornings doing something together as a class, with afternoons and evenings free for students to explore the city and work on your creative projects. Once we return to Portland, each student will communicate with Prof. Morrow through zoom or email to confer on the progress of their creative project.

Costs

Students will enroll in the two courses in the program online, just as they would enroll in any course. Financial Aid arrangements are individual to each student and may or may not apply to coursework done in the summer. Students receiving financial aid are encouraged to explore their options, especially since the courses in the program show up on the transcript just like any other courses.

Course fees are attached to these two courses – these fees are standard and are attached to these courses even when they are offered on PSU’s campus. The amounts are low (the total for the two courses is \$180), and the fees will be used to facilitate more guest speakers and site visits while we’re in New York.

Additionally, students will pay a program fee of \$1800. This fee will cover student housing (14 nights) and all tours, site visits, guest speakers, and masterclasses. The program fee will be billed to the student’s PSU account after the student has been accepted to the program.

Not included in the program fee:

- Airfare, which the student will book on their own
- Meals
- MTA (subway/bus) pass (about \$35/week)
- Souvenirs, gifts, additional travel and other personal expenses
- Tuition for the two courses
- Course fees for the two courses (\$180)
- Any other fees normally charged by the university for taking classes

Housing

Students are housed in the Manhattan YMCA, which is located right on Columbus Circle in the heart of the city, just one block away from Lincoln Center, Central Park, the Columbus Circle mall and grocery, and a subway stop servicing nearly all train lines. Students have full access to the building’s lounge, food shop, and all of its athletic facilities (track, basketball, racquetball, swimming, etc.). In the unlikely event that housing cannot be secured at the YMCA, other arrangements will be made with a safe and secure building with a record of housing students in summer programs.

Site Visits

Excursions will depend on the final construction of the courses, and on the total course fees generated by the program’s enrollment. Many cultural excursions, including some museums, historical sites, and TV show tapings, are free. Having spent a lot of time in New York, Prof. Morrow can also conduct tours of many neighborhoods, institutions and sites. Excursions may include museums, studios, production companies, galleries, theaters, film festivals, and working film and TV sets. All excursions are subject to scheduling and budget and are not guaranteed. Prof. Morrow has a deep knowledge of the city and will also be able to advise students on low- or no-cost places they should visit while in New York, and how to experience the city on a budget.

Safety

Statistically, New York is one of the safest large cities in the U.S., and Manhattan in particular is extremely safe. Even formerly rough neighborhoods in Manhattan,

like Harlem, are now considered to be very safe. Prof. Morrow has extensive experience in briefing students in study away programs on safety concerns, and will conduct a pre-departure session on New York and the expectations of student behavior while there. Each student will have Prof. Morrow's cell number, and all of their classmates' numbers, and will be required to have a cell phone, which must be on 24-7 for the entirety of our stay in New York. Students will also be required to carry a list of emergency numbers with them at all times, and will be required to use the buddy system when venturing out in evening hours. Each student must furnish Portland State Film with emergency contact numbers.

Excursions Out of New York

Using Boltbus or Megabus, which are nice and very inexpensive (about \$20 round trip), students could take an optional weekend daytrip to Washington DC (2 hours by bus) or to Philadelphia or Baltimore (90 minutes) or Boston (4 hours). The Boltbus picks up and drops off in very convenient, safe, central locations in Manhattan. These excursions would constitute personal travel and would not be covered by the program fee.

Optional Excursions

Some excursions may be planned but made optional, so students don't have to spend the money on them if they have no interest. These excursions would be conducted on the weekend or in evenings, outside of class time, and could include things like a group meal, karaoke, Broadway show, concert, or tourist attraction. These excursions would not be covered by the program fee.

Orientation

Program orientation will happen prior to departure, near the end of Spring term, on the PSU campus. The mandatory orientation meeting will cover the final agenda, the requirements of the courses, expectations of student conduct, and information about travel, budgeting, what to pack, safety and housing.

Gear

It is highly recommended that students bring their own resources, like cameras, recorders, tablets and/or laptops. Students are also encouraged to share gear with each other. A social media group for the program will be set up in Spring term so the students can begin to communicate with each other and discuss the sharing of resources. Any students working on film productions are encouraged to work in groups, crewing on each others' projects.

Legal

Students will be required to sign the university's Off-Campus Waiver form, the Acknowledgement of Risk and Waiver of Liability form, and a school liability form prior to departure.

Application Deadline

The priority deadline is 1/24/24. The late deadline is 1/31/24. Students who submit their complete application by the priority deadline will be enrolled before students who submit by the late deadline.

Application Process

To apply for the program, a student need only print out, complete, and submit the application form on the next page of this packet. The application form must be dropped off to the Portland State Film office in room 127 Lincoln Hall by the deadlines listed above.

The program fee will be billed to the student's PSU account, after the student has been notified that they have been accepted to the program. One important note: by signing and submitting the application, you acknowledge that the program fee is non-refundable except in the event of the cancellation of the program, in which case the entire amount will be refunded to the student. If the student withdraws from the program at any point before departure, the program fee is non-refundable.

Questions

If you have any questions about the program, please contact Prof. Morrow at morrow4@pdx.edu. He will be happy to answer your questions via email or set up a time to meet with you on zoom.

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Application Form

Students should place signed hard copies of this application form in Prof. Morrow's mailbox in the School of Film office (Lincoln Hall room 127).

Name _____

PSU ID Number _____

Year-in-School (circle one) Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior Grad

Declared Major _____

Declared Minor (if any) _____

Major GPA _____

Overall GPA _____

Contact Phone _____

Contact Email _____

Emergency Contact _____

Emergency Contact Phone _____

Signature _____

Date _____

IMPORTANT NOTE - By signing this application, you acknowledge the following: if you are accepted to the program, the program fee (\$1800), which will be billed to the student's PSU account, is **non-refundable** except in the event of the cancellation of the program, in which case the entire amount will be refunded to the student. If the student withdraws from the program at any point, the program fee is non-refundable.