Course Description: Art History/English/Film Studies 111 offers a general introduction to the critical study of film, television, and the internet. While examining each technology individually we will also work in a state of persistent comparison, endeavoring to comprehend media culture as a larger phenomenon. There are no prerequisites for this course and you are therefore not expected to have any prior knowledge of media studies. We will begin with the premise that film, television, and new media offer much more than “entertainment” and, accordingly, studying these forms is a serious undertaking requiring rigor and diligence.

This course satisfies the General Education Requirement in the Humanities.

Reading Materials: There are no textbooks or readers to be purchased for this course. All required readings are available in PDF format at our course’s D2L site.

Papers: As part of your work for this class, you will write three short papers (4 pages long, double spaced), one for each of the course’s units—that is, one on TV, one on film and one on the internet. These papers will assess how well you can apply the theories, and methods presented to you through lecture notes, readings and screenings.

Discussion Participation: The course relies on the active and engaged participation of all students. We will spend the majority of class time talking about the readings and screenings through asynchronous discussions. Consistent engagement will result in more complete and intelligent understanding of the material, and therefore, greater success in the course. For each unit, you will write an original posting, and four responses to different students.

Grade Breakdown:

Three Critical Papers: 50%
Participation in Discussions: 50%

For more information on the L&S Film Studies program, visit http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/filmstudies/ or contact Ben Schneider, the advisor for the Film Studies program at: terrapin@uwm.edu

Art History/English/Film Studies 111 is a core course for the Digital Arts and Culture Certificate Program and an intermediate-level course in the Film Studies BA.