

FACULTY



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PROJECTED COURSES

Fall 2025

*FYS 527: African American Religion in American Film
*RFSS 100: What is Rhetoric?
*RFSS 162: White Redemption
*RFSS 185: Public Discourse
RFSS 219: Race, Gender, and International Cinema
RFSS 240: Film Theory
RFSS 391A: The Rhetoric of Alien Abduction

Winter 2026

*RFSS 120: Introduction to Screen Studies
*RFSS 186: Introduction to Argumentation
*RFSS 259: Conspiracy Rhetoric
*RFSS 260: Lesbian and Gay Images in Film
*RFSS 276: Television Criticism
RFSS 391: Screening Slavery
RFSS 391J: Film Festival Studies

Short Term 2026 To Be Announced

** denotes course open to first-year students*

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Bates

Rhetoric, Film, & Screen Studies



AY 2025-2026
[@rfssbates](#)

THE DEPARTMENT

We offer an interdisciplinary approach to the study of human communication.

Our Goals and Objectives include:

- Students will hone their critical thinking skills through the study, and analysis, of argument.
- Students will understand public texts as expressions and arguments about identity, experience, and power.
- Students will explore multiple ways of reading texts, and recognize the complex forces of text, context, author, and audience in making meaning.
- Students will gain communication competence.
- Students will learn to combine creative thinking with research and analysis to produce insightful, and useful, criticism.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

The major consists of ten courses plus a thesis

1) CORE COURSES

Students must take two, taking three is recommended:

- RFSS 100. What is Rhetoric?
- RFSS 120. Introduction to Screen Studies.
- AF/RF 162. White Redemption: Cinema and the Co-optation of African American History.

2) PERFORMANCE

Students must take at least one

3) THEORY

Students must take at least one

4) RACE/ETHNICITY

Students must take at least one

5) GENDER/SEXUALITY

Students must take at least one

6) SEMINARS

Students must take two (with two different faculty members)

7) ADDITIONAL COURSES

In consultation with a major advisor, students take two additional courses in rhetoric, film, or screen studies. These courses may be from within the department, offered by other departments or programs, or taken off campus.

8) RFSS 457 or 458. Senior Thesis

For more information on the **MAJOR** requirements, scan this QR Code:



MINOR REQUIREMENTS

The minor consists of six courses.

1) CORE COURSES

Students must take two, taking three is recommended:

- RFSS 100. What is Rhetoric?
- RFSS 120. Introduction to Screen Studies.
- AF/RF 162. White Redemption: Cinema and the Co-optation of African American History.

2) PERFORMANCE

Students must take at least one

3) RACE/ETHNICITY

Students must take at least one

4) GENDER/SEXUALITY

Students must take at least one

5) SEMINAR

Students must take at least one

For more information on the **MINOR** requirements, scan this QR Code:

