German filmmaker Werner Herzog’s statement stands as a testament to the journey of exploration that film provides, as a means of expression and a way of knowing. Films often help us look with new eyes, take us places we’ve never been, or send us reeling into the self and the familiar. International films lay before us new vistas, new territory to chart and explore. The best of them snap us out of our comfort zone and bring us face to face with other countries, other cultures. As film critic Molly Haskell says, “Movies are one of the clearest and most accessible of looking glasses,” both reflecting and influencing the culture in which they are made.

The Film Studies Practicum gives students an opportunity to connect with cultures across the globe by studying a diversity of international films.

Work Requirements:

Film studies minors will take the practicum for two credits each semester of the senior year (or two semesters total as required by extenuating circumstances, such as study abroad). The design of the course is based on the British tutorial model. Students will meet with the professor weekly to watch and discuss International films. In the Fall, students will be required to research, choose, attend and present film screenings at the International Film Festival, held three times throughout the Fall semester. In the Spring, students will assist Dr. Ann Murphy with the Tournées French Film Festival. Other assignments include three two-page response papers: one on one of the French films in the Festival and two on the foreign films we will watch for class. In addition, you will write one 10-12 page critical analysis of an international film and its contribution to the development of cinema. Specific details on the assignments will be provided during the semester.

Grading:

10%  Tournées Assistance
30%  Response Papers (3, 10% each)
20%  Group Discussions
40%  Critical Analysis Paper