

# Films studies majors analyze all genres

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available through the College of Arts & Sciences. It differs from the production major, now in its second year from the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

Ian Olney, a film production professor, said the program was searching for students with creative backgrounds who had the ability to express themselves visually and verbally.

"People are interested in film today because everybody is exposed to television, film and music," Olney said. "We're working with a new media, and there's no similar offering anywhere else in Nebraska."

With increasing enrollment and classes that are "always full," according to Dixon, the question naturally arises: How serious is everyone that takes these classes?

"I'd say four or five percent of the students come in thinking they're going to just sit and watch films," Dixon said.

"Others think they will graduate, and then Universal will hire them to direct Jurassic Park 4 because they were 'film majors.'"

Dixon said people leaving the program quit because they

realized that talking and thinking about film was more difficult than they imagined.

"We're not really interested in people who think they're going to be the next Steven Spielberg," Dixon said.

Olney said he thought the majority of students knew what they were getting into when they enrolled in the classes.

Students in the programs expressed mixed concerns.

"I think a certain amount of students expected it to be pud," said Tom Cabela, a junior film studies major, referring to students who have dropped out of the program.

"Quite often they're surprised, but most people realize we're not just watching films but dissecting them," he said. "You can't just watch a film once and understand what's going on."

"Everyone wants to be a film producer or director," said John Thorson, a film production student, referring to the popularity of the classes.

Thorson said he didn't expect much going into the classes but has enjoyed his film production classes so far.

Drew Hoffmeyer, a freshman film studies major, said people

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Professor Wheeler Winston Dixon  
chairman of the film studies program

outside of the program think the classes are easy.

"I learned how to make a movie, review movies and look at film critically," Hoffmeyer said.

"(Film) is a part of everyday life, and studying it is a good change from biology and other sciences."

Gwen Foster, an associate professor of film and cultural sciences, said students were getting the wrong impression if they assumed film studies courses were less difficult than other classes.

"We get a big turnaround at the beginning of the semester," said Foster, who thought the UNL program compared well with peer institutions.

"People are familiar with art and film, and it makes the classes

popular, but it's more than that," she said.

Film studies courses analyze gender, race, international and gay and lesbians issues in film, Foster said.

"Professor Foster expressed film diversity, not just Hollywood films, in her classes," Cabela said, who has taken film studies courses since he arrived at UNL.

Dixon said students would take a semester each on film history, film genre, film directors and advanced critical theory as a part of the major.

"We're looking for serious people only; people who really want to explore the history and literature of film and go beyond Scorese and the people that everybody already knows," Dixon said.

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## Reggae band keeps coming back, enjoys playing for UNL students

DREAD from page 5

they convey is timeless.

Dred was only 10 years old when he wrote the song "Marcia" about black experience in America.

"Although I'm an American and I live in America, I'm still my brother's keeper. I have to understand my past," the New Orleans native said about the song.

"Marcia" was selected as first runner-up in the hip-hop division of the 2000 John Lennon Songwriting Contest. The song's recognition is just one more step toward Dred I Dread's larger success.

As well as a monetary package, the Lennon award will also get radio airplay for "Marcia," which appears on the band's debut album, "Listen to the Revolution."

Dred said the band's music is part of a revolution, as it is like that of no other reggae band.

"When they catch up, they're still one step behind," he said.

Dred described the band's

sound as a combination of reggae and hip-hop with socially driven lyrics.

"We're coming at you, and we're not about to bite our tongue," he said.

Since its 1998 formation and March 2000 release of "Listen to the Revolution," Dred I Dread has enjoyed a steady stream of awards including the title of Best Reggae Band in Minnesota from the Minnesota Music Academy.

Refusing to let these successes slow them down, four of the band's five members moved in together in early December.

Their house, which includes a rehearsal studio, allows the group to consolidate bills.

Guitarist Matty, the newest member of Dred I Dread, said knowing he's got a roof over his head eases the music-making process.

"We were skeptical at first, but the unit gels so well we know when somebody needs their space," he said.

The band regularly tours the Midwest, preferring to stop in

*"We really click when we play college towns. We don't look like the old seventies reggae bands."*

Matty  
guitarist

college towns where younger fans relate to them better than more traditional reggae bands.

Matty likes playing for college-age crowds because they are more receptive to the band's original sound and appearance.

"We really click when we play college towns," he said. "We don't look like the old '70s reggae bands."

Dred said it is worth it for the band to keep coming back to Lincoln because there are "lots of options for us as a band."

"Lincoln is a link," he said. "(We) establish that as part of our route so people can rest assured that we'll have reggae in our town."

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