



Aska Melody Chong

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Double Major: Comparative Literature and Cinema/Digital Media

I was initially torn between pursuing an English major and a Comp. Lit. major, but since I already did have a background studying Western literature, I wanted to dedicate my years in college studying East Asian literature specifically. Academic writing has always been my passion and I knew I wanted to continue writing in college since high school. Being realistic. It's about finding the right balance between your passion and what you're good at. For me, I was initially more interested in film production than film theory (writing on film), but after spending the first half of college exploring different options and trying out different internships and classes, it turned out that my passion for filmmaking was a short-lived passion because it did not match my skillset and it gradually made me realize that it was just not a sustainable passion. After coming to this realization, I switched to the film theory/analysis track because I was still really passionate about cinema, so I could not give that up, but my strengths were in academic writing and research, so I felt confident pursuing this field. So I'd say it's about finding a field that is sustainable for you to pursue, and this doesn't mean you have to give up what you're passionate for completely, just because you don't feel like you're talented enough for that. It's about finding the right approach to it. Comparative Literature is a very creative and diverse major. Diverse as in the backgrounds that the students and faculty come from, the different mediums you get to engage with (cinema, drama, literature, etc.), and the various cultures that these pieces come from. I currently work as a linguist/translator at a video game publisher, where I'm constantly writing, writing, writing! I also started an Instagram account to post my film reviews/analyses last year. I'm also planning to start a blog for this eventually.