

FILM STUDIES

Qualification: A-Level

Exam Board: WJEC



SUBJECT OVERVIEW

This course is designed to deepen your understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of film and aims to build on the cine-literacy learners have developed informally since childhood.

Films will be studied from a variety of production contexts and students will also develop skills of observation, critical analysis and personal reflection as well as encouraging creativity and practical skills in audio-visual and written form.



Students can expect to take part in a variety of support and film-related enhancement activities during their time on the course.

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YEAR ONE COURSE CONTENT

Component One: American Film

Students will complete a comparative study of two mainstream Hollywood films produced between 1930 and 1990 and one single American independent film. The comparative study will be focused on the core areas of film foregrounding a comparison of contexts - how contexts are reflected in film, how knowledge of contexts increases understanding and how films generate meanings and responses. In the single independent American film section, students will explore the film's non-mainstream cinema subject matter and the stylistic features associated with lower budget production.

Component Two: European Film

Students will examine two British Films and one European Film focussing again on the core study areas of film and the specialist study areas of narrative, spectatorship and genre. As with Component One, students will also identify clear points of comparison suggested by the institutional and production contexts of the films, the era, countries and cultures in which they were made.

Component Three: Film Production

Film Production is a crucial and synoptic part of the A-Level course, giving students the opportunity to put into practice the filmmaking ideas they develop throughout their academic study. Knowledge of film form in particular is intended to enable students to produce high quality film and screenplay work as well as provide them with a filmmaker's perspective on the films they study. Students must also provide a written evaluative analysis of the production. A production brief for students to follow is set by the exam board.

YEAR TWO COURSE CONTENT

Component One: Varieties of Film and Filmmaking

Students build on the knowledge gained in Year One of the course and study additional films from the mainstream American and British film industries. Whilst the emphasis of the comparative study will be on contexts, all core study areas will be relevant to this component so that students can compare in detail the way contexts are reflected in the films studied. In addition, students are required to explore the specialist study areas of auteur, spectatorship, ideology and narrative.

Component Two: Global Filmmaking Perspectives

For this component, students will examine a wider range of films from outside Europe and America and also study documentary, experimental and silent films. This further extends the student's range and diversity of narrative film, each representing a distinct geographical, social, cultural world and a particular expressive use of film form. In addition, students are required to explore the specialist study areas of auteur, critical debate, film theory and narrative.

Component Three: Film Production

This component has the same requirement as Year One but students are expected to write a larger and more detailed written evaluative analysis of the production.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE PREPARE ME FOR?

Students who successfully complete this course can expect to gain entry onto university degree programmes in film, television or media studies, or direct entry into the film production industry at junior level.

ASSESSMENT

Component One: Varieties of Film and Filmmaking

- Written Exam - 2 hrs 30 mins
- 35% of Qualification

Section A: Hollywood 1930-1990 : Comparative Study

Section B: American Film Post-2005 (two films)

Section C: British Film Post-1995 (two films)

Component Two: Global Filmmaking Perspectives

- Written Exam - 2 hrs 30 mins
- 35% of Qualification

Section A: Global Film (two films)

Section B: Documentary Film (one film)

Section C: Silent Cinema (one film)

Section D: Experimental Film (one film)

Component Three: Film Production

- Non-Exam Assessment
- 30% of Qualification
- Production (20%) *Either a short film or screenplay.
- Evaluative Analysis (10%)
- A written evaluative analysis (1,700-2,000 words) of the production in comparison with other professionally produced films or screenplays.



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