

# AS/A2 FILM STUDIES

## Entry requirements:

5 Cs or above at GCSE: two of which *must be* a C and B in English, English Literature or Media Studies.

## Examination board:

WJEC

## Teachers:

L. Boulter, R. Criticos, S. Gollins, K. Rhodes

## Timetable organisation

The Film Studies AS / A2 course will be taught over 5 periods per week. Students are expected to complete the AS course in the subject before moving on to A2:

### **AS in the first year consists of 2 modules: Exploring Film Form (40%) –**

This is composed of one written analysis of a chosen sequence from a film of the student's own choice and a creative / practical project (storyboarding or screenwriting) that will draw upon the skills developed in the analysis.

### **British and American Film (60%) –**

This is an externally assessed exam of 2.5 hours divided into three sections with a choice of questions. **Section A** considers both the Hollywood and British film industry, and trends in cinema-going. **Section B** considers an aspect of British Film culture via the analysis of a variety of film texts, in particular 1963-73.

**Section C** considers two US Films for comparative study.

### **A2 in the second year consists of two modules:**

#### **Film Research and Creative Projects (40%) –**

This is composed of a research project on an area of investigation identified by the student and a creative / practical project (screenwriting, outline for a documentary or filmmaking) that will draw upon established skills.

#### **Varieties of Film Experience: Issues and Debates (60%) -**

This is an externally assessed exam of 2.5 hours divided into three sections with a choice of questions. **Section A** considers World Cinema and in particular the style of German and Russian cinema of the 1920s. **Section B** considers spectatorship and audience responses to films which challenge 'mainstream' cinema.

**Section C** considers a single film for critical analysis and interpretation.

## Main Syllabus areas

This course introduces students to the systematic study of film as an art form and an industry. British, American and World Cinema will be studied from the 1920s to the present.

## Main Syllabus areas (Cont...)

The course provides students with opportunities to study film within historical, social and cultural contexts, encouraging them to develop a variety of interpretations.

Analysis of the filmmakers' craft will provide them with a powerful and critical understanding of the moving image. The course also provides the possibilities to translate theory onto practice with screenwriting, story-boarding, documentary film and filmmaking options.

## Method of assessment

Students will be assessed by a combination of coursework (40%) and examination (60%). Success at AS in Year 12 will lead to A2 in Year 13. Earlier modules can be retaken if students wish.

## Qualities required

You will have an interest in film and a willingness to extend and develop the range and styles of films that you view. A film text is so difficult to explain because it is so easy to understand; therefore you need an open and enquiring mind, established writing skills and a willingness to enter debate and discussion.

## Links with other subjects

Film Studies provides an excellent complement to the arts, performing arts and social sciences. As a discipline that requires rigorous analysis, independent research and reflective observation it will complement all post 16 studies and in particular sociology, psychology, history and any of the English courses.

## Career prospects

The skills developed during the course link with a range of subjects at Higher Education and a wide range of vocations available without a degree: film, media, journalism, marketing, research, advertising, arts administration, museum and archivist work. Future prospects in these areas are encouraging and this course provides students with an understanding of a form that has prominent cultural significance in this new millennia.

## Extension and enrichment opportunities

Cinema screenings; conferences; visiting speakers and workshops.