

AS Level and A-Level Film Studies

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature

Exam Board: WJEC

Teachers: R Criticos, and D Stewart

AS in the first year consists of three components:

Component 1: American Film (35%)

This is an externally assessed exam of 1.5 hours divided into two sections with a choice of questions.

Section A explores two examples of Hollywood cinema ***Casablanca*** and ***Bonnie and Clyde***

Section B explores a single example of contemporary American Independent cinema ***Captain Fantastic***

Component 2: European Film (35%)

This is an externally assessed exam of 1.5 hours divided into two sections with a choice of questions.

Section A explores two examples of recent UK film ***Trainspotting*** and ***Fish Tank***

Section B explores a contemporary European film ***Pan's Labyrinth***

NEA: Exploring Film Form (30%)

The NEA (Non-Examined Assessment or coursework component) is composed of a creative/practical project (screenwriting) that will draw upon the skills developed in the analysis, plus an evaluation of the project.

A-Level in the second year consists of three components:

Component 1: Filmmaking and Spectatorship (35%) -

This is an externally assessed exam of 2.5 hours divided into four sections with a choice of questions.

Section A explores two examples of Hollywood cinema ***Casablanca*** and ***Bonnie and Clyde***

Section B explores two examples of contemporary American cinema ***Captain Fantastic*** and ***Nomadland***

Section C explores two examples of recent UK Filmmaking ***Trainspotting*** and ***Fish Tank***

Component 2: Varieties of Global Film (35%)

This is an externally assessed exam of 2.5 hours divided into four sections with a choice of questions.

Section A explores two examples of contemporary European and World cinema ***Pan's Labyrinth*** and ***City of God***

Section B explores an example of a contemporary documentary film ***Amy***

Section C explores an example of early silent film ***Sunrise***

Section D explores an example of experimental film ***Cleo from 5 to 7***

NEA: Exploring Film Form (30%)

The NEA (Non-Examined Assessment or coursework component) is composed of a creative / practical project (screenwriting or film making) that will draw upon the skills developed in the analysis, plus an evaluation of the project.

Main Syllabus Area:

This course introduces students to the systematic study of film as an art form. British, American and World Cinema will be studied from the 1920s to the present. 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' art and craft will provide them with a powerful and critical understanding of the moving image. The course also provides the possibilities to translate theory into practice with screenwriting, storyboarding and filmmaking options.

Method of Assessment

Students will be assessed by a combination of coursework (30%) and examination (70%).

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 A-Level study 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 and visibility, as the creative industries now annually contribute over £84 billion to the UK economy.

Extension and Enrichment Opportunities

Cinema screenings; conferences; visiting speakers and workshops.

Reading List

<https://nofilmschool.com/>

Year 12

'Easy Riders, Raging Bulls' Peter Biskind

'Film History' Kristin Thompson

'An Introduction to Film Analysis: Technique and Meaning in Narrative Film' Michael Ryan and Melissa Lenos

'It' s Only A Movie ' Mark Kermode

Year 13

'Film Art' Bordwell and Thompson

Laura Marcus, F. W. Murnau's Sunrise In: 'A Modernist Cinema'. Edited by: Scott W. Klein and Michael Valdez Moses, Oxford University Press

'Cleo de 5 a 7' (BFI Film Classics) by Steven Ungar

'Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans' (BFI Film Classics) by Lucy Fischer (Author)

Independent Study

- Consolidating notes using the Course Textbook available in the Library (note that you cannot borrow this so you can complete this in the Library)
- Complete and mark past papers using resources from the exam board websites:
https://www.edugas.co.uk/qualifications/film-studies-asa-level/#tab_pastpapers
- Listening: list of recommended regular podcasts, programmes
<https://www.youtube.com/@StudioBinder>
<https://nofilmschool.com/podcast>
<https://www.filmspotting.net/>
<https://www.kermodeandmayo.com/>