

A LEVEL FILM STUDIES

A QUICK
GUIDE TO
THE
COURSE



IF A MILLION PEOPLE SEE MY MOVIE, I HOPE THEY SEE A MILLION DIFFERENT MOVIES

Film studies is all about analysis and interpretation as Tarantino's comment above suggests. Filmmakers 'construct' their films from key elements to impact an audience and audiences read those elements, make meaning and respond. It's this meaning making relationship between filmmakers and audiences that's explored in A level Film Studies. You'll watch films, have great discussion and given our history of **outstanding results**, you'll probably end up with an impressive A level result too.

Aims of the course

You will develop a knowledge and understanding of:

- a diverse range of film, including documentary, film from the silent era, experimental film and short film
- the significance of film and film practice in national, global and historical contexts
- film and its key contexts, including social, cultural, political, historical and technological contexts
- how films generate meanings and responses
- film as an aesthetic medium
- the different ways in which spectators respond to film.

You will develop the ability to apply:

- critical approaches to film
- your knowledge and understanding of film through either filmmaking or screenwriting.

WJEC Film Studies

You will apply a particular framework to your exploration of film, showing knowledge and understanding of:

- the key elements of film form - cinematography, mise-en-scene, editing, sound and performance, both individually and in combination with one another
- the structural elements of film form - narrative and genre
- how film creates meaning and generates response, including how it functions as a medium of representation
- film as an aesthetic medium
- the spectator and spectatorship
- the social, cultural, political, historical and institutional, including production, contexts of film
- critical approaches to studying film given the idea of film as being 'constructed' by the filmmaker as artist or 'auteur'
- key debates within film and filmmakers' theories of film.

Course Outline

We have decided to teach **only the two year, linear A level course**. We **will not** be offering an AS qualification at the end of Year 12. We believe that completing the two year course, and being assessed at the end, will both enhance your chance of success and improve your understanding of film studies.

A Level Film studies

Component 1:

Externally set examination

35% of A Level

3 hour written exam (120 marks)

Component 2:

Externally set examination

35% of A Level

3 hour written exam (120 marks)

Component 3:

Controlled assessment

30% of A Level

No time limit (60 marks)

Introduction

At the root of all film studies is a recognition that films are made: they are constructed using a range of elements – cinematography, mise-en-scène, sound, editing and performance (the key elements of film form). These elements are organised structurally in terms of narrative and often genre (the structural elements of film form). How filmmakers use these elements, frequently in complex and highly artistic ways, is a large part of what constitutes the formal study of film. Equally important is how we respond to the works filmmakers cre-

ate, both as spectators and as learners studying relevant contexts, applying critical approaches and engaging in critical debate.

Areas of study

You will study the following areas of film in terms of film form, industry, aesthetics, context, reception, critical approaches and debates and representation:

- classical Hollywood
- Hollywood since the 1960s
- contemporary American independent film after 2010
- a comparative study of two British films
- two international film movements
- documentary film
- two global films
- a selection of short films

Aims of the course

- critical judgement, investigative, analytical and intellectual understanding
- imaginative, creative and intuitive practical expressive skills
- independence of mind in articulating, developing and refining personal responses and in communicating ideas
- an interest in, enthusiasm for, and enjoyment of film, in all its forms
- an understanding of the relationship between film and spectator and the contexts of film reception
- an understanding and an awareness of the various contexts of film production
- an understanding of the wider contextual factors that effect film



production - technological, social, political, cultural and historical.

- an understanding of film as a medium of representation
- an understanding of key debates and critical approaches within film studies.

Assessment Objectives

AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of elements of film

AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film to:

- analyse and compare films, including through the use of critical approaches
- evaluate the significance of critical approaches
- analyse and evaluate own work in relation to other professionally produced work

AO3: Apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film to the production of a film or screenplay.

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