

Film Studies - A Level

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Course Outline:

A Level Film Studies engages you in the academic in-depth study of Films and their industry. The films on the course cover a wide breadth of styles and techniques, including silent, documental, experimental and short films. The course also offers opportunities to study mainstream American films from the past and the present as well as a range of recent and contemporary British films, American independent films and global films, both non-English language and English language. You will be able to investigate how film works both as a medium of representation and as an aesthetic medium.

There are three core areas that you will study throughout the course:

Area 1: The key elements of film form: cinematography, mise-en-scène, editing, sound and performance

Area 2: Meaning and response: how film functions as both a medium of representation and as an aesthetic medium

Area 3: The contexts of film: social, cultural, political, historical and institutional, including production. In addition, you will also study: Spectatorship, Narrative, Ideology, Auteur, Critical debates, Filmmakers' theories.

Assessment:

Paper 1 – 3 questions based on your study of 6 set films. One of the questions will be comparative.

Paper 2 – 4 questions based on your study of 5 set films.

Both exams are 2.5 hours and are each worth 35% of the A Level grade.

There is a variety of question types and length, although most are extended responses.

Non-Exam Assessment:

You will either create a short film or a screen play. You will write an evaluative analysis of 1600-1800 words.

Skills/Aptitudes Developed/Required:

You will need to be interested and excited by film and filming techniques.

You will enjoy debate and discussion about theories and ideas related to films. You will develop analytical and research skills. The course is academic – whilst you will be watching films, you will be expected to be able to analyse them in depth and detail.

Additional Considerations:

Grade 5 in English GCSE. You do not need to have studied Media Studies or Film at GCSE. You do not need to own any specialist equipment. Some of the films will be in black and white, silent or with subtitles.



Progression Post-18

Students can continue to study Film Studies at university level, or can go into the working world of media and film. Although this is a new course, past students who have studied Media Studies have gone onto study graphic design, events management and media at degree level.