

Film Studies

Exam Offered: WJEC AS/A2 Film Studies (FM1,FM2,FM3,FM4)

Teachers for 6th Form

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Department Learning and Teaching Policy and Practice

“Cin literacy can be defined as a greater awareness of the sheer variety of films on offer, and deeper appreciation of the richness of different types of cinematic experience which encourages more people to enjoy to the full this major element of our culture.”

(Making Movies Matter *Film Education Working Group 1999*)

The spectrum of experience within any Film Studies class is broad and this course allows all students to fill in the gaps in their knowledge and to gain experience of a range of cinema to which you have not been previously exposed. To be successful you will need to engage with a wide range of films both mainstream and independent as well as developing your practical skills and your ability to make links between theory and professional practice.

Master Learner

In the table below you will find descriptions of attitudes, skills and qualities you will need in order to be a successful Film student. The **Master Learner Learning Journey** consists of the following stages : Novice, Apprentice, Practitioner, Expert, and Master. It is possible that you will start your journey at Novice or Apprentice level, but you will be expected to be working at Expert or Master level as soon as possible. To achieve this you will need to take active responsibility for assessing your strengths and weaknesses as a learner and identifying what you need to do to improve. The sooner you work at the higher levels the better your grades will be. There will be a formal Master Learner Assessment and Review at least twice a year.

Master Learner Learning Journey. (Film and Media Studies)

Novice: You find it very difficult to motivate yourself. You usually rely on others to push you in the right direction but do not always respond.

You do not find studying rewarding and are not really interested in the areas of study.

You find it difficult to be creative and rely on others for ideas.

You do not know how to research effectively and find it difficult to work independently.

You have never really developed your ability to analyse films and your knowledge of the topics and theories studied is hazy and lacking detail. You may also need to develop your technical skills.

Apprentice: You know that you are not always well motivated and you need to work on this area. With encouragement you can achieve some success.

You are often unenthusiastic about your learning but you are aware that this is an area you need to improve.

When you find an area which interests you can become enthusiastic but you should try and always do your best.

You do not see yourself as a very creative person. You often rely on others for ideas and prefer to put your energies into other areas rather than your studies. You need to be prepared to have a go and try to contribute ideas.

You find independent research very difficult. You often do not know how to start and are more comfortable when given clear guidelines. When you understand how to tackle the task you can be successful. Make sure you ask for help when needed and set time aside for your work.

Your knowledge and understanding of the areas of study is rudimentary. With support you are capable of improving your skills and know you need to try harder. Make sure you learn topics as you go along, read your notes before lessons and make an active effort to involve yourself more actively in your studies.

Practitioner: Most of the time you work and see yourself as a well motivated person. You are keen to do well and are prepared to work to achieve good results.

You enjoy learning and think studying is worthwhile. You work well with others and are willing to contribute ideas.

You are a creative and intelligent person who enjoys the opportunity to create Media artefacts. You contribute original ideas and collaborate effectively with others.

You have developed confidence working independently and have good research skills. You sometimes need encouragement to get going but are beginning to find independent work satisfying and enjoyable.

You have a good understanding of the topics studied during the course. You are developing your skills of analysis and can frequently show insight. Your technical skills are good and you enjoy creating your own Media artefacts.

Expert: You are a well motivated individual and want to do well and you are prepared to work hard to do so.

You should always set yourself high standards which you strive to achieve.

You are an enthusiastic student, you participate well in class and make a strong contribution. You work well with others, enjoy collaborating and are able to inspire others. Ensure you continue to lead and motivate your group.

You bring ideas and creativity to your work, you are energetic and committed and you enjoy learning.

You are a confident independent learner and you are interested in extending your knowledge beyond the requirements of the course. You enjoy researching and are highly skilled in this area, it is important to maintain your enthusiasm and extend your research to areas not covered in class.

You have a thorough and detailed knowledge of the topics covered throughout the course. You have very well developed skills of analysis which you can confidently apply to a range of texts. You have good technical skills and are confident in using a range of equipment. You have intelligence and insight which you apply to your studies. Widen your experience beyond texts studied in class, read around the topics studied and try to apply your knowledge to a range of films and directors which are unfamiliar.

Master You are seen as a motivated learner. Always keen to develop new skills and determined to achieve the highest standards.

You bring enthusiasm and energy to all areas of study. You motivate and enthuse others. In group work others tend to look to you for leadership.

You are dynamic and full of ideas. Practical work is original and creative and you enjoy expressing your ideas and bringing them to fruition.

You are a confident independent worker. You have excellent research skills and are not afraid of experimentation. You love learning for its own sake.

You have an excellent understanding and knowledge of the key issues surrounding the subject. You also have excellent analytical skills which you are able to apply to your own work and professional texts. Your technical skills are very well developed and you use a range of equipment with skill and confidence. Out of school you enjoy spending time widening and deepening your study and you are involved in producing your own work as well as appreciating a wide range of films and directors.

- **Assessment Policy and Practice:** You will be assessed throughout the course in a variety of ways such as *Self, Peer and Teacher Assessment*. You will be assessed on a day-to-day basis, periodically and transitionally. Practical coursework assignments will involve you in working in groups but it is important to remember you will be assessed individually based on your contribution to every stage of the project.

Day-to-Day:

Class Discussion: you will be expected to contribute to class discussion in most lessons. This is an important part of your learning which will give you an opportunity to express and clarify your own ideas and respond to the ideas of others. You will assess your work and that of others and you will mark your work and that of others using the exam criteria. Your teacher will comment on your work regularly and you will receive comments on your written work

Periodic:

You will receive detailed comments for coursework both written and practical. You will also self and peer assess this work. You will receive a progress report, a mock report and 2 master learner current performance reports per year.

Transitional:

You will sit one exam at the end of year 12 – *British and American Film* and one at the end of year 13 – *Varieties of Film Experience : Issues and Debates*. You will also submit a coursework portfolio at the end of your AS course consisting of a creative project and an essay analysing the micro features of a film. Your advanced portfolio at the end of your A2 course will consist of research project and the production of a short film.

Course Outline:

- **Year 12**

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to the course • Exploring Film Form : The study of the micro features of film. • The study of Narrative and Genre • Consideration of the active role of spectators. • Development of technical skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of the British Film Industry • ‘Swinging Britain’ close study of key films from the period. • Study of the American Film industry • Close study of two key texts • Film Industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete work on coursework portfolio • Review and improve Blog
<p>Suggested reading/resources</p> <p>A Level Film Studies for WJEC www.imdb.com</p>	<p>A Level Film Studies – Text Book Introduction to Film Studies – Jill Nelmes (Routledge)</p>	<p>A Level Film Studies – Text Book Introduction to Film Studies – Jill Nelmes (Routledge)</p>
<p>Key pieces of work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework essay. Analysis of a film extract – 1500 words. • Creative Project to produce a film sequence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam practice essays • Mock Exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundation Portfolio

- **Year 13**

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research and Planning for practical coursework - Production of Short Film - Theoretical Evaluation of Production - Individual Research Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exam preparation. - World Cinema Spectatorship Topics - Single Film Critical Study 	Exam Revision
<p>Suggested reading/resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to Film Studies – Jill Nelmes (Routledge) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to Film Studies – Jill Nelmes (Routledge) - - The Cinema Book – Pam Cook (BFI 1985) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to Film Studies – Jill Nelmes (Routledge) - The Cinema Book – Pam Cook (BFI 1985) -
<p>Major pieces of work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production of Short Film - Research Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Essays --Exam practice questions - Mock Exam 	- Exam practice questions

Wider Learning Opportunities

We offer opportunities for students to participate in the Silver Arts Award in year 12. Students are encouraged to participate in a range of online Media courses offered by the Open University for Gifted and Talented Students. Students are also invited to take part in an extra-curricular film production project with the aim of entering a short film in local and national film competitions productions..

Students will be expected to commit to work on their productions after school and at weekends, at times this means making sacrifices in your social lives and perhaps other commitments like part time jobs.

We offer a tutorial system to support students in their independent research and improving their technical skills.

Wider Reading and Study:

Books

There are a wide range of useful books available to borrow in the Media Studies Library

Visual and other Pleasures *L Mulvey* (Macmillan 1989)

Fetishism and Curiosity *L Mulvey* (BFI 1996)

Spectacular Bodies *Y Tasker* (Routledge 1993)

Dark Alchemy: The Films of Jan Svankmajer *Paul Hammond* (London, Flicks Books, 1995)

Fantasy and the Cinema *James Donald* (London BFI 1989)

Dada and Surrealist Film *Rudolf E Kuenzli* (Boston MIT Press 1996)

Screen Violence *Karl French* (London Bloomsbury 1996)

Theories and Authorship *James Caughie* (London Routledge/ BFI 1981)

Film Theory goes to the Movies *Jim Collins et al* (London Routledge / AFI 1993)

Websites:

Internet Movie Database: <http://www.imdb.com>

Cinema Sites: <http://online.socialchange.net.au/tcc/>

Filmunlimited: <http://www.filmunlimited.co.uk>

Yahoo Movie Links: <http://dir.yahoo.com/Entertainment/Movies> and film/

Journals

Empire Magazine

Total Film

Sight and Sound

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