

FILM STUDIES



EXAM BOARD: OCR COURSE DURATION: 2 YEARS

A-level Film Studies is for students who are serious film watchers and want to explore and learn about a wide range of contemporary and historical English language films as well as foreign language cinema. This two year course is principally designed to develop analytical skills, but also has a practical production coursework component worth 30% embedded within it.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

A-level Film Studies explores both mainstream and independent cinema from a creative and academic perspective, examining the key production processes from concept through to screening. Individual units are as follows:

COMPONENT ONE - FILM HISTORY (exam-based 35%)

Varieties of film and filmmaking For this component learners will study one classical Hollywood film from the period 1930-1960 and another from 1961-1990 as well as independent film from both the UK and Hollywood.

COMPONENT TWO - CRITICAL APPROACHES TO FILM (exam-based 35%)

Global filmmaking perspectives For this component learners study two non-English language films, one documentary film, one film option from a 1920s silent film movement, one film option from an experimental film movement.

COMPONENT THREE - MAKING A SHORT FILM (coursework project 30%)

The production may take the form of either a short film or a screenplay for a short film.

TEACHING & LEARNING METHODS

The course is taught by specialist film teachers. A great deal of learning time will be spent analysing and writing about key sequences both individually and within groups, whilst independent planning, research and production skills will be engaged during coursework production.

SUBJECT COMBINATIONS

Film Studies works well with a wide range of subjects, but will combine particularly well with English Language and Literature, Media Studies, arts-based programmes, BTEC CMD(TV and Film), History and Sociology.

CAREERS/HE INFORMATION

Film Studies can be used to gain access to a huge variety of humanities-based university courses or more specifically to study theoretical or practical film at degree level.