

COURSE OUTLINE

FILM STUDIES

On this course we'll examine how films are conceived and crafted by developing an understanding of the underlying rules of filmmaking. We will also explore the reasons films connect to audiences and why individuals like some films or film genres more than others.

Part One: Why Films Work

Part Two: Where Should the Camera Go?

Part Three: How Should this Be Put Together?

Part Four: What Makes a Good Film Great?

Part Five: The Best Films You've Never Seen

Part Six: Filmmaking Secrets You Didn't Know You Didn't Know

Objectives

- To develop an appreciation and understanding of different perspectives on film.
- To understand the basic principles of filmmaking.
- To develop skills in the areas of critical thinking, analysis and creativity.
- To enhance students' ability to express themselves verbally, in written form and through film.

Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Understand the craft of filmmaking sufficiently to enable them to go forward and make their own short film projects.
- Think critically and analytically about film, narrative structure and the creative process.
- Articulate their understanding of how the key elements of any film they are presented with was put together and how this affects audience response to that film.
- Develop a critical perspective on films and the filmmaking process and thus to produce a critique of them in a constructive manner.

Assessment Process

Grades for the course are based on four equally-weighted components: the tutor's ongoing assessment of how well the student prepares for class and demonstrates their understanding of the topic, one short test paper at half term, one short test paper at the end of term and one creative project of the student's own design.

Assessment Criteria

DISTINCTION Grade A	Capable of making strong, coherent and original arguments; can demonstrate advanced understanding of all relevant concepts.
CREDIT Grade B	Capable of making coherent arguments; can display a good understanding of all relevant concepts.
MERIT Grade C	Attempts a reasoned argument; displays a good understanding of most relevant concepts.
PASS Grade D	Engages with argument and debate; displays some understanding of the relevant concepts.
FAIL	Does not engage with the key debates; does not show an understanding of the relevant concepts.

Recommended Supplementary Reading:

Alexander MacKendrick - <i>On Film Making</i>	Faber, 2004	ISBN: 9780571211258
Robert McKee Robert - <i>Story</i>	Methuen, 1999	ISBN: 9780413715609
David Mamet - <i>On Directing</i>	Penguin, 1992	ISBN: 9780140127225
Scott McCloud - <i>Understanding Comics</i>	Harper, 1994	ISBN: 9780060976255
William Goldman - <i>Adventures in the Screen Trade</i>	Abacus, 1996	ISBN: 9780349107059

Recommended Introductory Viewing:

VERTIGO – Alfred Hitchcock
TIME BANDITS – Terry Gilliam
TOY STORY – John Lasseter
PULP FICTION – Quentin Tarantino
UN CHIEN ANDALOU – Luis Bunuel and Salvador Dali
CABARET – Bob Fosse
CASABLANCA – Michael Curtiz
TRAFFIC – Steven Soderbergh

If you are unable to obtain books locally, they may be ordered from

<http://www.bookshop.blackwell.co.uk> or www.amazon.co.uk