

COURSE OUTLINE

FILM STUDIES

This course will be equally suitable for the so-far more casual movie fan as well as those with some study of film already completed. We will be looking at some great examples of good film making and discovering how and why they work. We will learn the basic language of cinema, and understand how it was developed over the last 110 years. At the end of the course, students will have a deeper appreciation of film as an art form as well as a craft and will have learned new disciplines useful not only for further study of film, media or the arts, but also, should they desire, in their own practical filmmaking pursuits.

The course will be taught in group sessions. These will include the screening of excerpts, lively discussion and debate, and co-operative exercises, as well as one-to-one tutorials that provide scope for more personalised study and a closer look at specific ideas each student finds interesting.

Students are encouraged to bring along copies of their favourite films for use in class.

Week One	An introduction to basic film language; the hows and whys of film making; pulling back the curtain on some of the strange secrets of cinema.
Week Two	Storytelling; the concept of genre; the unfolding of a narrative; character is plot, plot is character; the element of surprise.
Week Three	Taking control of sound and vision; manipulating audiences with images; learning by examples – the best of the best; how important are actors anyway?
Week Four	A quick race through the history of cinema; the brave, bold future of film making; the big secrets you still haven't been told about; bringing it all together in one tidy pile.

Recommended Viewing

Students might try to see a handful of the following as they can be used as the basis of discussion in class:

<i>Vertigo</i>	dir. Alfred Hitchcock
<i>Toy Story/Toy Story 2</i>	dir. John Lasseter
<i>Twelve Monkeys</i>	dir. Terry Gilliam
<i>Harold and Maude</i>	dir. Hal Ashby
<i>The Apartment</i>	dir. Billy Wilder
<i>Vanilla Sky</i>	dir. Cameron Crowe
<i>Heavenly Creatures</i>	dir. Peter Jackson
<i>Seven Samurai</i>	dir. Akira Kurosawa
<i>Oldboy</i>	dir. Chan Wook Park
<i>Volver</i>	dir. Pedro Almodovar
<i>Metropolis</i>	dir. Fritz Lang
<i>Pandora's Box</i>	dir. G W Pabst