

A LEVEL FILM STUDIES

WELCOME 😊

Course overview



IDEAS WE EXPLORE IN FILM STUDIES

- ‘The director is always the most important influence on a film.’ Compare how far your two chosen films support this statement.
- Compare how far the two films you have studied reflect the times in which they were made.
- Explore some of the reasons why spectators may respond in very different ways to the same character.
- Discuss how important cinematography is in creating a powerful response in the spectator.
- ‘Digital technologies have expanded our sense of what a documentary can be.’ How far is this true in relation to your chosen film?



TYPICAL LESSON ACTIVITIES

1. Watching films, key scenes and discussing key ideas – individually, in small groups or whole-class. Sharing and debating interpretations of texts.
2. Revisiting scenes in depth to study cinematography and mise-en-scene. Students will learn about film form and aspects of genre, narrative, audience, representation, context.
3. Writing short or longer answer responses to exam-style questions.
4. Group presentations: researching contexts or meanings within film texts and presenting these ideas to the class.
5. Studying theoretical approaches to reading and understanding film. Learning about film history - developments in cinema.
6. Planning ideas for their own film narrative and text (screenplay or moving image).



EDUQAS COURSE STRUCTURE

You will study a **range of different films** made in a number of different countries. You will learn about the **techniques** filmmakers use to **create meaning** in their films and **communicate with audiences** and you will learn how to plan, and edit your own film script or shoot your own film.

A Level Film Studies is a mixture of written analysis work that is assessed by

- **two exams (2hr30)**
- **one practical coursework project** that will involve you making your own short film or producing a screenplay for it.



EXAM PAPER 1 (35%)

Component 1 – Varieties of Film and Filmmaking (35%): You will answer questions about the American and British film industries, focusing on two American films made between 1930 and 1990, two American films made since 2005 and two British films made after 1995. **(Six films in total)**



EXAM PAPER 2 (35%)

- **Component 2 – Global Filmmaking Perspectives:**
You will largely answer questions about films and film industries from outside the USA and UK. You will study one European film and one non English language film made outside Europe, you will also study units of documentary, silent cinema and experimental film. **(Five films, minimum)**



NEA (COURSEWORK) (30%)

- You will have to produce either a **short film or a screenplay for a short film** accompanied by **photographed storyboard** of a key scene from your film in response to a brief set by the exam board.
- You will also have to write an evaluation of your production.



SO, WHAT FILMS WILL YOU STUDY?

- EDUQAS provides a list which teachers will choose from – full list is on the next slide.
- 10 hours of teaching per fortnight
- Split between two teachers



Section A: Hollywood 1930-1990 (comparative study)**Group 1: Classical Hollywood 1930-1960)**

- Casablanca (Curtiz, 1942, U)
- All About Eve (Mankiewicz, 1950, U)
- **Vertigo (Hitchcock, 1958, PG)**
- Imitation of Life (Sirk, 1959, 12)
- Some Like It Hot (Wilder, 1959, 12)

Group 2: New Hollywood (1961-1990)

- Bonnie and Clyde (Penn, 1967, 15)
- OFOTCN (Forman, 1975, 15)
- Apocalypse Now (Coppola, 1979, 15)
- **Alien (Scott, 1979, 15)**
- Do The Right Thing (Lee, 1989, 15)

Section B: American film since 2005 (two-film study)**Group 1: Mainstream Film**

- Carol (Haynes, 2015, 15)
- La La Land (Chazelle, 2016)
- **Joker (Phillips, 2019, 15)**
- Little Women (Gerwig, 2019, U)
- Nomadland (Zhao, 2020, 12)

Group 2: Contemporary independent film

- Beasts of the Southern Wild (Zeitlin, 2012, 12A)
- Captain Fantastic (Ross, 2015, 15)
- Moonlight (Jenkins, 2016, 15)
- **Get Out (Peele, 2017, 15)**
- Promising Young Woman (Fennell, 2020, 12)

Section C: British film since 1995 (two-film study)

- Trainspotting (Boyle, 1996, 18)
- **Shaun of the Dead (Wright, 2004, 15)**
- This is England (Meadows, 2006, 18)
- **Fish Tank (Arnold, 2009, 15)**
- We Need To Talk About Kevin (Ramsay, 2011, 15)
- Mangrove (McQueen, 2020, 15)
- Mogul Moowgli (Tariq, 2020, 15)
- Belfast (Branagh, 2021, 12)

Section A: Global film (two-film study)**Group 1: European Film**

- Life is Beautiful (Benigni, Italy, 1997, PG)
- **Pan's Labyrinth (Del Toro, Spain, 2006, 15)**
- Mustang (Erguven, Turkey, 2015, 15)
- Portrait of a Lady on Fire (Sciamma, France, 2019, 15)
- Another Round (Vinterberg, Denmark, 2020, 12)
- The Worst Person in the World (Trier, Norway, 2021, 15)

Group 2: Outside Europe

- City of God (Meirelles, Brazil, 2002)
- House of Flying Daggers (Zhang, China, 2004, 15)
- Taxi Tehran (Panahi, Iran, 2015, 12)
- A Fantastic Woman (Leilo, Chile, 2017, 15)
- Roma (Cuaron, Mexico, 2018, 15)
- **Parasite (Bong Joon-Ho, South Korea, 2019, 15)**

Section B: Documentary film

- Sisters in Law (Ayisi, Cameroon, 20015, 12A)
- Exit Through the Gift Shop (Banksy, UK, 2010, 15)
- Stories We Tell (Polley, Canada, 2012, 12A)
- Amy (Kapadia, UK, 2015, 15)
- For Sama (Al-Kateab, UK, 2019, 18)

Section C: Film movements – Silent Cinema

- Keaton compilation (Keaton, 1922, US)
- Strike (Eisenstein, USSR, 1924, 15)
- Sunrise (Murnau, US, 1927, U)
- Spies (Lang, Germany, 1928, PG)
- Man With a Movie Camera (Vertov, 1928)
- A Propos de Nice (Vigo, France, 1930, U)

Section D: Film movements – Experimental Film (1960-2000)

- Cleo From 5 to 7 (Varda, France, 1962, PG)
- Daisies (Chytilova, Czech, 1965)
- Fallen Angels (Wong, Hong Kong, 1995, 15)
- Memento (Nolan, US, 2000, 15)
- Mulholland Drive (Lynch, US, 2001, 15)

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- An interest in films! Stories, meanings in texts. Different genres of work.
- To be accepted on the Film Studies A Level course, you would need a **minimum of a grade 5 in GCSE English Language.**
- Skills in essay writing / exam technique will be taught and developed during the A Level course – **Film Studies is a heavily essay-based** subject! If you don't like writing essays, then it's not the right course choice.
- While studying at A Level, there is an expectation that you would undertake **independent wider reading** – you will need to enjoy watching film texts and thinking deeply about how and why they are constructed in certain ways to appeal to audiences or present ideas to them.
- Students would need to have some time-management skills and the **ability to meet deadlines.**



CINEMATOGRAPHY – CHOICE OF SHOT TYPE

Medium Close Up

