

Film Studies

Advanced Level

General Information

Film Studies is a modern academic course designed to deepen your understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of motion pictures. The course aims to place your experiences and creative ideas at the centre of your studies and, at the same time, help you to develop transferable skills in analysis, research, writing, creativity and practical production that universities and employers value highly. The course blends coursework and exam assessment.

During the course you will explore a wide range of British, American and World Cinema releases, past and present, becoming extremely visually literate as you learn to analyse films in terms of their technical construction and storytelling methods. You will learn to deconstruct film sequences in impressive detail, discovering the subtle strategies filmmakers use to create meaning and emotional response for audiences. You will become skilled filmmakers, shooting, editing and mixing sound for your own productions, with your technical skills developed and supported by your teachers until you become extremely confident creatives. You will develop the craft of writing screenplays, creating characters and worlds scene-by-scene. Alongside these approaches you will explore Film's place in society, examining the way it develops or challenges our view of places, people and events, shaping our ideas and values in a way that makes it the most influential and important media form there is.

Examination details

Component 1: American and British Film 3 hours (35% of qualification)	Written Examination
Component 2: Varieties of Film 3 hours (35% of qualification)	Written Examination
Component 3: Production (Coursework 30% of qualification)	Non-Exam Assessment



Entry requirements

You should have a grade 4 C in GCSE English. You should also meet the general college entry requirements for Advanced Level study. Please refer to the current Prospectus – Advanced Programmes, Entry Requirements.

In this subject, particular skills and aptitudes will be required, many of which will be demonstrated by students' GCSE profiles.

Entry requirements might be changed in light of curriculum reform.

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Course content

American and British Film (35%)

Looking in depth and detail at six feature films we will use them to explore modern day Hollywood Film, Hollywood films made between the 1960s and 1990s, Classical Hollywood, American Independent Film and British Film. This unit will also act as our introduction to Film form, developing your grasp of how camera work, sound design, staging, editing and story structure are employed by filmmakers.

Varieties of Film (35%)

Here you explore everything from Silent Film to Digital Experimental Film, the power and importance of Documentary filmmaking, European Film and Global Film, concluding with detailed exploration of a compilation of short films. The films we analyse here are varied, challenging and exciting examples of what Film outside Hollywood can offer.

Production (30%)

You produce either a short film or a screenplay for a short film, together with a digitally photographed storyboard of a key section from your film. This is your opportunity to develop your creative and technical skills, telling stories and making meanings through practical production or creative writing.

How it is taught?

Film Studies involves a blend of teacher-led introductions to key concepts, independent research/analysis, essay writing and practical production/creative writing activities. 30% of the course centres on coursework with written examinations making up the remaining marks. During the coursework, you will be given considerable scope to apply the key concepts to the areas of Film that interest you most.

Useful/common subject combinations

Film Studies offers a unique crossover of analysis, creativity, research and technical skills development. As a result it combines well with English Literature and English Language, sharing their emphasis on textual analysis, the written communication of ideas, appreciation of storytelling methods and creative writing. Media Studies combines well as it shares Film's interest in exploring how representations of aspects of our lives are constructed and our interest in producing creative, practical moving image coursework. Film's fascination with how images are made and make meanings aligns it with Art and Photography, while the exploration of the way Film shapes attitudes, values and responses brings it close to Psychology, Politics, History and Sociology. It is an extremely versatile subject.

Careers/HE information:

Studying Film enhances skills in analysis, communication, and practical production, resulting in a range of transferable skills valued by universities and employers alike. It is a highly respected academic subject that provides a very strong foundation for degree level study in general and employers also appreciate the breadth of analytical, research, communication, organisational, technical and creative skills the subject gives you. The subject can lead you towards academic study of Film, Cultural Studies, journalism, screenwriting, Film production, the Television industry, advertising, photography, Games design, Web content production, teaching and many other progression routes.