

# A LEVEL FILM STUDIES



## WHAT IS FILM STUDIES?

Film studies is a truly fascinating academic course which gives you the opportunity to study one of the most popular mediums in society today. The A Level course allows you to develop a deeper, critical understanding of cinema – from analysis of film texts through to producing your own film or writing your own screenplay.

## WHY SHOULD I STUDY FILM STUDIES?

Have you ever watched a film and asked yourself “How did they do that?” Does film excite and motivate you? Do you enjoy making and writing your own films? Do you like to explore different types of film? Are you interested in finding out how film reflects the world in which we live? If you are interested in film and you want to know more about how a film is constructed, explore the history and development of film, find out about film movements and styles and if you want to develop film production and screen-writing skills, then this is the course for you.

## USEFUL SKILLS & INTERESTS

Because of the nature of the course you need to be confident and willing to write essays, conduct research, demonstrate creative skills, develop ICT, photography and filming / editing skills, and participate in discussions and presentations. Obviously, an avid interest in film is recommended as the course is all about deconstructing films. It helps if you keep informed about film related news and watch films regularly.

## COURSE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

Film Studies is approached using a range of teaching and learning techniques with film screenings, seminars, discussions / debates, practical tasks, research tasks, presentations, lectures and field trips.

The two year course consists of 30% coursework and 70% exam modules:

For the coursework you will make your own short film or write a professional screenplay for a short film.

In preparation for the exam you will produce detailed essays analysing how meaning is made in film and how spectator response is generated. You will be introduced to the codes and conventions of cinema so that you can read a film in specific detail; observing reasons behind camerawork, editing, sound, performance and mise-en-scène

### Topics covered include:

- Film language: How films make meaning and generate response through the identification and analysis of film techniques.
- History of cinema – An exploration of how cinema has developed into what it is today, achieved through studying silent cinema, golden age of Hollywood, independent cinema, blockbuster era, digital cinema.
- Film Movements – You will find out more about important film movements from across the globe that have influenced and shaped film, including Surrealism, Post-Modernism, French New Wave, Italian Neo Realism and German Expressionism.
- Styles / Types – You will appreciate and understand different styles and types of films from mainstream, independent, documentary, short film and arthouse film.
- Hollywood, British and World cinema are all examined to appreciate and develop your awareness of film as a medium.

Critical approaches are applied to films in order to make sense of them and debate content and messages which in turn develops your analytical skills and contextual awareness.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

For entry on to this course you will need to meet the college standard entry requirements for Advanced Level study of 5 GCSE passes (grades 4 - 9). Due to the amount of written work and analysis involved in the subject it is recommended that you have at least a grade 4 in GCSE English Language.

The course is mainly essay focussed and requires critical thinking.

## PROGRESSION ROUTES

Many of our students progress to FE or HE to study a range of courses including film, media, animation, journalism, photography, creative writing, arts, cultural and social–science subjects.

Many of our film students progress to film related degrees, including:

- Leeds Trinity University – **Film Studies**
- Northumbria University – **Film & Television Studies / Media Production**
- Sunderland University – **Journalism / Media, Culture and Communication**
- York St John University – **Film Studies / Film & TV Production / Creative Writing**
- University of Bolton – **Special and Visual Effects**
- University for Creative Arts – **Digital Film & Screen Arts**
- Northern School of Art – **TV, Film and Theatre Production**
- Manchester Film School – **Film Making, Production Design for Screen & Film**

## STUDENT COMMENTS

What our Film studies students say:

“Film studies allows you to be as creative as possible and develops your awareness of films too”

“The course is very interesting, engaging and I've learned lots of new things doing it. It has changed my attitude towards films”

“Film Studies is my favourite subject, I loved films already, but the lesson gave me a better appreciation of them and a potential career path”

“Film studies is a really diverse and interesting subject. It is challenging but super rewarding”.

“Film studies is a fascinating subject. I have learnt many transferable skills that include writing as well as editing and a plethora of other interesting skills. I feel it has really prepared me for my future plans and I've had so much fun whilst doing it!”

“I've had such a wonderful two years in Film Studies. It is my favourite subject and has led me to study TV Production at university. I can't recommend it enough. You'll fall in love with the subject just like the rest of us did!”

“Film studies is the one subject I had no experience of when starting college and I'm so glad I picked it. It's like English Literature but with films and it's so much fun. Hard work but it definitely pays off“

## FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like further information please contact the subject leader, Rachel Horner.

*Please note that the information in this leaflet is correct at the time of publication, but circumstances may arise which cause us to revise our provision. Feb 2023*