

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department: Communications and The Arts

Programme: Art History & Visual Culture
Film & Photography
Film Studies
International History

FHEQ Level: 4

Course Title: Introduction to Film Studies

Course Code: FLM 4200

Total Hours: 120

Timetabled Hours: 45

Guided Learning Hours: 0

Independent Learning Hours: 75

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits
6 ECTS credits
3 US credits

Course Description:

This course explores film as a medium across cultural and historical contexts. It covers films in its varied form, from the first projections in the late 19th century to online distribution today. Using examples of noteworthy films, it takes an introductory examination of the most important film theories and concepts, in the process examining how ideologies and meanings are imbedded in this vibrant medium.

Prerequisites:

None

Aims and Objectives:

- Consider conceptual frameworks for critically assessing issues related to the cultural production of film, including technological changes and industrial innovations.
- Introduce and discuss the major theoretical approaches in this field including genre and narrative theories, feminism, montage, and associated ideologies.
- Discuss, understand, and develop a critical awareness of the ways in which film production and consumption are related to issues of power in society, cultural identities, and the relationship between identity and one's place in society.
- Use a variety of resources (such as class discussions, artifacts, books, articles, and the Internet) to critically engage with the theoretical approaches.

Programme Outcomes:

Art History & Visual Culture: A4iii, B4i-iii, C4i, C4iii, D4i

Film & Photography: A4iii, B4i-iii, C4i, C4iii,

Film Studies: A4iii, B4i, B4iii, C4i, C4iii, D4i,

International History: B4i, C4i, C4iii, D4i

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Use theoretical frameworks that will enable them to understand the processes of film production and consumption and begin to identify strengths and weaknesses between these frameworks.
- Understand how conceptions and representations of national, cultural, gendered and sexualized identities may be apparent in films.
- Critically engage with theoretical debates and relate them to cinematic experiences.
- Develop a range of general intellectual knowledge and transferable skills such as the ability to critique interpretations of filmic narratives; understand and evaluate complex arguments; and engage in clear written communication on these topics.
- Act with limited autonomy under direction or supervision and engages in evaluation of own work and capabilities and outputs in key areas of film studies.

Indicative Content:

- Classic Hollywood
- Reception Theories: Spectator, Audience and Response
- Gender Trouble
- National Identity and Film
- Montage Theory

- Alternate Forms
- Animation
- Documentaries

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

The course will combine formal lectures with interactive discussion. The former will introduce the main arguments related to the debate. The latter will be encouraged through tasks, activities and presentations of motion pictures aiming to link the theoretical arguments with the analysis of cultural processes and products. We will watch mostly excerpts from key films as well as a few full-length films.

Indicative Texts:

Bordwell and Thompson. Film Art: An Introduction; 11th Edition. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2016.

Etherington-Wright and Doughty. Understanding Film Theory. 2nd Edition. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.

Nelmes, Jill. Introduction to Film Studies. (London: Routledge, 2011)

Villarejo, Amy. Film Studies: The Basics, (2021) Routledge; 3rd edition

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
Various updates as part of the UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	