COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department: Communications and the Arts

Programme: BA Film

FHEQ **Level:** 5

Course Title: Genre Studies and The Film Industry

Course Code: FILM 5102

Total Hours: 160 (Lev 3-5) (4 US Credit)
Timetabled Hours: 45
Guided Learning Hours: 15
Independent Learning Hours: 100

Credit 16 UK CATS credits
8 ECTS credits
4 US credits

Course Description:

This course investigates the development of genre films over a historical period. Students examine issues critical to genre studies, which can include iconography, key themes, authorship, and stardom. Specifically, through a study of film criticism and theory, students examine distinct genres from the 1920s to the present. The course also explores the idea that genre films necessarily retain basic similarities to reflect cultural concerns and to keep audience interest. In addition, the course provides an opportunity for students to examine and compare the perspectives of the Hollywood industry and non-Hollywood genre films.

Prerequisites:

 40 Credits

Aims and Objectives:

This course aims to explore central questions in the study of film genres such as: How do genres develop? What do genre films reveal about society's identities, ideologies, and fears? What are approaches to analyse the form and grammar of genre films? By the end of the semester, successful students will have:

- A critical understanding of the theoretical approaches to the study of film genres.

- Further developed a range of skills to research and assess varying source materials as they relate to genre films, synthesize available information, and develop academic arguments and reasoned judgments, and appreciate genre films in their cultural contexts.

- The ability to critically analyse a range of film genres.

- Further developed a range of practical skills in relations to critical writing and clear communication, the ability to link theory, evidence and social issues, and effectively manage time and independent study.

Programme Outcomes:

5AII, 5BII, 5CI, 5DI

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:

- Demonstrate a critical engagement with **theories and concepts** used in film through a detailed understanding of major distinctive genres as well as in engaging with the major thinkers, debates and paradigms involved in the study of genres.

- Demonstrate engagement with the **selection, application and utilization of disciplinary appropriate methods** by developing a detailed understanding of how genres are consumed and are embedded in everyday life.

- Demonstrate the ability to **formulate and communicate arguments** cogently, retrieve and generate information, and select appropriate criteria to evaluate sources and/or data regarding genre films and the film industry, expressing them effectively in writing.

- Demonstrate both **critical reflection** on ethical principles in the research process and broader discipline, and self-reflection for the capacity of criteria-based evaluation of work by independently evaluating the work using justifiable criteria.

Indicative Content:

Genre Studies, theories, concepts and debates that may include but are not limited to:

- Key definitions and terms in the study of film genre

- Origins and Evolution of genres

- Genre Ideologies

- Semantic/syntactic approach to examining genres

- Genre films in the age of globalization

- Knowledge and understanding of genre formulas in the film industry

- Hollywood studios versus independents

Film Genre case studies that may include but are not limited to: Horror, Melodrama, Westerns, Screwball Comedy, Romance, Film Noir, Science Fiction, Teen Film, Body Genres, Global Noir, Found footage, Screen-lives, Cell Phone Cinema, Superheroes, Postapocalyptic, Dystopian and others.

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 includes screenings of extracts from feature films as well as short films. These will be followed by weekly lecture and class discussion. There will be additional assigned films to watch outside of class time. For some assignments in particular, students will be asked to seek out and analyse films of their own choosing as active researchers. Students should complete all the set reading for each week beforehand to participate fully in class discussion.

Indicative Text(s):

- Grant, B. K. (ed.) (2012) *Film Genre Reader IV*. Austin: University of Texas Press.

- Maltby, R. (2003) *Hollywood Cinema*. United Kingdom: Wiley.

- Neale, S. (ed.) (2021) *Film, Cinema, Genre: The Steve Neale Reader*. United Kingdom: University of Exeter Press.

Journals

American Cinematographer.

Canadian Journal of Film Studies.

Cinema Journal.

Film & History.

Film Comment.

Film Criticism.

Film History: An International Journal.

Film International.

Film Quarterly.

Framework: The Journal of Cinema & Media.

Historical Journal of Film, Radio & Television.

Journal of Film & Video.

Journal of Popular Film & Television.

Literature Film Quarterly.

New Cinemas: Journal of Contemporary Film.

Sight & Sound.

Velvet Light Trap: A Critical Journal of Film & Television.

Websites

David Bordwell Blog. Available at: http://www.davidbordwell.net (Accessed: November 2024).

Film Studies For Free. Available at: https://filmstudiesforfree.blogspot.com/2011/09/on-bill-douglas-scottish-cinema-and.html (Accessed: November 2024).

NewBooks Network – Film. Available at: https://newbooksnetwork.com/category/arts-letters/film (Accessed: November 2024).

Key Film Terms. Available at: http://www.filmsite.org/filmterms.html (Accessed: November 2024).

Richmond University London Library - Film Studies Resources. Available at: https://my.richmond.ac.uk/library/subjects/filmstudies/default.aspx (Accessed: November 2024).

Cambridge University Library – Film Studies Resources. Available at: https://libguides.cam.ac.uk/c.php?g=344065&p=4952124 (Accessed: November 2024).

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
First edition document	Nov 2024	