

**COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

<b>Academic School / Department:</b>	Communications and the Arts
<b>Programme:</b>	BA Film
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	4
<b>Course Title:</b>	Introduction to Film Studies
<b>Course Code:</b>	FILM 4101
<b>Total Hours:</b>	160 (Lev 3-5) (4 US Credit)
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	15
Independent Learning Hours:	100
<b>Credit</b>	16 UK CATS credits 8 ECTS credits 4 UK 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:**

4AI

4BI

4CI

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:

- Demonstrates broad knowledge and understanding of **the core theories and methods** in the study and medium of film, exploring the processes of film production and consumption and begins to identify strengths and weaknesses between these frameworks.
- Demonstrates a broad understanding of the **key issues of and core methods** in the study and medium of film, critically engaging with major debates and relate them to cinematic narratives, forms, experiences and creations.
- Demonstrates **broad communication skills** (including digital literacy) in deploying ideas and information to in a range of different formats and media, discussing the major concepts studied in this course and link these to representations and consumption of cinema.

**Indicative Content:**

- Analytical methods that may include but are not limited to:
  - Mise-en-scene, Cinematography, Editing, Narrative Form, Sound and SFX.
- Theory, concepts, debates and case studies that may include but are not limited to:
  - Auteurship
  - Genre Theory
  - Representation (e.g. gender, sexuality, race and ethnicity)
  - National Identity and Film (e.g. British Social Realism)
  - Reception Theories: Spectatorship, Audience and Response
  - Montage Theory
  - Alternate Forms and Animation
  - Documentaries
  - Classic Hollywood
  - Postcolonialism

**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:**

This course will be delivered face to face through a combination of lectures and interactive sessions. In addition to classroom activities, there are guided learning elements that are tutor led and arranged through Blackboard. These activities can be asynchronous online sessions, flipped classrooms, set readings with discussion boards or set guest lectures for example. Set activities are monitored by the instructor to ascertain student engagement. Students are encouraged to prepare for class and to play an active part, to raise questions, following-up ideas and interact with a wide range of provided material.

**Indicative Text(s):**

Bordwell, D., Thompson, K. and Smith, J. (2024) *Film Art: An Introduction* ISE. 13<sup>th</sup> edn. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Doughty, R. and Etherington-Wright, C. (2017) *Understanding Film Theory*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edn. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Nelmes J. (2012) *Introduction to Film Studies*. London: Routledge.

Smith, I.H. (2020) *The Short Story of Film: A Pocket Guide to Key Genres, Films, Movements & Techniques*. London: Laurence King Publishing. Available at: <https://www.laurenceking.com/products/the-short-story-of-film> (Accessed: November 2024)

Villarejo, A. (2021) *Film Studies: The Basics*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edn. London: Routledge.

**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://alumnirichmondac.sharepoint.com/sites/library2/SitePages/subject-film.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	Nov 2024	