

Film Studies AS and A level (WJEC)

What is the Film Studies Department like?

Film Studies is part of the Media Studies Department. We are housed in a well equipped set of classrooms. We have a new media workshop, equipped with both digital cameras and editing facilities. The working environment is friendly and one that encourages both intellectual inquisitiveness and creativity.

The teachers are enthusiastic about their subject, and will work hard to support your learning.

There are typically around 300 students in Media and Film Studies across the two-year groups. The pass rate is very high and the majority of film and media students achieve a good grade.

The teaching incorporates a variety of approaches designed to suit different abilities and learning styles. We try hard to help any student with his/her own learning difficulties such as dyslexia and to stretch those with high academic ability. Visits, trips and speakers are built into the course.

We work hard and enjoy what we do - we hope that you will too.

What is the course about?

The AS units provide a grounding in the study of film. This is done through reference to the films and institutions with which you will already be familiar: Hollywood and British Cinema. By contrast, the A2 units are designed to introduce you to other kinds of cinema; to critical approaches which open up new insights into popular commercial cinema, in the UK and elsewhere. You will, for example, study of Indian and Chinese film.

You will explore how films are constructed, both in terms of how they are made and the codes and conventions that underpin them as, for example, in genre films. We will examine how ideas, places, events and people are represented in both fictional and non-fictional film. Another important area of study is the audience: you will study not only who produces films, but also how audiences receive and make sense of them.

What sort of work will I be doing?

There will be a variety of assessment tasks set over the FOUR units (TWO each in AS and A2). In both AS and A2 there are options for cinema and film making. The emphasis on practical work is as a means of developing understanding and appreciation of film form, and in particular on 'making meaning' - the meaning made by filmmakers, by audiences and by students of film.

How will I be assessed?

Both **AS** and **A2** are assessed through ONE written exam and the submission of coursework. The course work for **AS** is ONE 1500 word essay and a creative project. For **A2** you undertake an independent research project and another creative project.

Coursework accounts for 20% of both **AS** and **A2** separately, amounting to 40% in total for the complete A level.

What qualifications are recommended?

Five GCSE subjects at Grade C or above, including English. Previous experience of Media or Film Studies is not required.

What are the progression routes with this qualification?

For those interested in pursuing their studies and training in film and the media there are many HND and degree courses. These are of several kinds.

There are courses that are:

- largely practical in nature and are designed for those who want to work in the industry
- wholly theoretical designed for people with an academic interest in the media
- most commonly, those courses that contain a balance of practical and theory.

What skills will I develop during this course?

You will develop a range of communication skills, written, verbal and IT based. You will need to be proficient at word processing and using a variety of IT hardware and software. Your inter-personal skills will also be developed, as you will be working within small groups in discussions, production work and giving presentations.

What extra work can I do?

It is expected of all media students that you undertake a substantial amount of work outside normal College hours. This includes:

- reading: as much of and as varied as you can – and not only books:
- look out for relevant articles in the press. The College library has an excellent collection of media/film books and magazines
- research for assignments - books, magazines, newspapers, Internet, etc.
- production work: if you have your own camera, do as much photography/video work as you can.

The Media Workshop is open until 5.00 p.m.: arrangements can also be made for you to work there until 9.00 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays.