

# Film Studies

A Level



## Overview

Film Studies takes both a theoretical and practical approach to this major contemporary art form. The course involves the study of British, American and World Cinema from a range of different critical approaches including narrative, genre and representation. Students will consider the significance of various movements such as surrealism and documentary in the history of film, before applying their knowledge creatively through a practical project involving screenwriting and short film-making.

## What goes well with this course?

Film Studies may be combined with any subject but will combine particularly well with other essay-based subjects such as:

- English
- History
- Media Studies
- Politics
- Psychology
- Sociology

## Progression

Although not a vocational qualification, A Level Film Studies provides a useful foundation for students wishing to study Film at a higher level or pursue a career in moving image production.

## Course Content

The course involves the study of British, American and European cinema and considers the importance of significant film movements and directors in its historical development.

This course covers:

- Film form and narrative
- Film history
- Ideology and film
- World cinema
- Practical film production including screenwriting

## Educational Experiences

### Course Specific Trips, Visits & Experiences

Film Studies students have the opportunity to take part in a variety of course related experiences. In recent years, these have included:

- A Q&A with Independent British Filmmaker Tristan Lorraine from Fact not Fiction Films, following a screening of his recent film A Dark Reflection
- A presentation from Sound Designer Nick Harrison
- A tour of the Warner Bros studios (Harry Potter), plus workshop on cinematography

- A residential 'Video School' trip
- A trip to New York where students had a guided tour of the Museum of the Moving Image as well as a chance to see locations used in various Hollywood films
- Various work experience opportunities

## Assessment

This course is assessed through both written examinations (70%) and coursework (30%). The coursework involves practical production work and screenwriting.

Students produce a five minute short film using the College's studio, digital editing suite and HD DSLR.

The exam board for this A Level is OCR.

## Entry Requirements

All students need to have at least five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above (and a satisfactory school reference) in order to be accepted on an A Level/BTEC Level 3 Programme.

In addition, students should meet the following minimum GCSE requirement:

- Grade 5 in English Language

Students will enjoy this course if they would like to:

- Analyse and discuss films in detail
- Make their own short films
- Learn more about the history of film
- Find out about different styles of film making