



St Mary Redcliffe  
and Temple School

# Film Studies



# Film Studies

Exam board: WJEC / EDUQAS

Specification: GCE Film Studies

**This popular and innovative course will appeal to all film lovers. It is a two year linear A level course** - The AS content forms the first half of the A level content and can be assessed at the end of Year 12 to provide an AS Level qualification if the student is dropping the subject and believes they can get a strong grade. Otherwise the two years of content are assessed at the end of Year 13 to give the A level grade.

## AS Level structure

Component 1	American Film	1½ hour exam 35%
Component 2	European Film	1½ hour exam 35%
Component 3	Production	Coursework 30%

## A Level structure

Component 1	Varieties of Film and Filmmaking	3 hour exam 35%
Component 2	Global Filmmaking Perspectives	3 hour exam 35%
Component 3	Production	Coursework 30%

## Course Delivery:

This exciting course is delivered through active viewing, discussion and debate of a stimulating variety of British, American and International films. Students enjoy small group work, research, creative writing and practical tasks to develop filming and editing skills. Students are actively encouraged to share their passion for different types of film in lessons and to develop their understanding of cinema through wide reading of critical film texts and popular film writing, such as Total Film and Sight and Sound magazine.

Presentations to the group about personal viewing and research findings are also an enjoyable part of the course. Students find that the course really broadens their horizons in unexpected ways and often say that by the end of the course, they will never look at films (or the wider world!) in the same way

## Course Content:

### **AS COMPONENT 1: AMERICAN FILM/**

### **A2 COMPONENT 1: VARIETIES OF FILM AND FILMMAKING**



Teachers are lucky enough to have a choice of amazing films to share with students. This component assesses knowledge and understanding of two Hollywood films since the 1960s. This could be Hitchcock's chilling 'Vertigo' and the controversial 'One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest'. One contemporary American Independent film is also studied, from an eclectic list of titles which includes the brilliant 'Boyhood' or the eccentric 'Captain Fantastic'. In Year 13, this continues to include a comparative study of two British films, for example, the very dark comedy 'Sightseers' and the enigmatic 'Under The Skin'. (This content is spread across components 1 and 2 at AS level but is all assessed in component 1 of the A Level)

## **AS COMPONENT 2: EUROPEAN FILM/**

## **A2 COMPONENT 2: GLOBAL FILMMAKING PERSPECTIVES**



This unit really enriches students' appreciation of a fascinatingly diverse range of films in different genres and from various eras, including:

- Documentary, such as the moving and tragic life story of Amy Winehouse
- Silent Film Movements, such as German Expressionism
- Non-English language European film, for example, 'Pan's Labyrinth'
- Experimental Film, such as 'Pulp Fiction'

Students develop sophisticated appreciation and analysis of the set films, leading to incisive essays on relevant debates about aesthetics, ideology and directorial intention.

## **AS AND A2 COMPONENT 3: FILM PRODUCTION**

Students love the challenge and satisfaction of writing screenplays and then shooting and editing their own short film, as an individual creative production. The films that students produce are often stunningly original, stylish and thought provoking, offering students the chance to exemplify their theoretical and practical learning on the course brilliantly.

## **Entry requirements:**

At least one English/Humanities/Social Science subject should be passed with a grade 6.

## **Skills & personal qualities required / developed by course:**

Film students are passionate about cinema and interested in film and its role in society, past and present. Individual research, filmmaking and editing skills will be developed. Students will also need to read widely about film and carry out independent viewing and research.

## **Visits / resources:**

We encourage links with local and national film production companies where possible. The department is well equipped with the latest digital camcorders, Macs, large screen viewing facilities and an interesting range of films on DVD.

## **Recommended reading / websites:**

‘Film Art’ by Bordwell and Thompson

Sight and Sound or any Film magazine of your choice

Guardian Film section [www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nkt-vRpF7sE&safe=active> sound techniques

<http://bristolbhhs multimedia.weebly.com/camera-angles-and-shot-types.html#> lots of useful stuff!

<https://www.studiobinder.com/blog/types-of-camera-shot-angles-in-film/> cinematography

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How is Film Studies different from Media Studies?**

With Film, the focus is purely on cinema as a medium, with all the study of the themes, visual style and the industry that entails. With Media, a range of media are studied which does include the Film Industry but also print, television, radio and advertising.

## **Do I have to have made films before starting the course?**

No, students get full support in writing, planning, shooting and editing short films. This is a much loved part of the course which gives students a lot of creative freedom to use their passion for certain genres to create an aesthetically immersive film.

## **What can I do to prepare for the course?**

Try to watch a wide variety of films, both contemporary and historical. Challenge yourself to explore genres you think you're not keen on – you may be surprised at how much you get out of watching them. If you don't watch subtitled films, try those – some of the best films we study originate from non-English speaking countries. Reading about film (reviews, articles) will also enhance your experience.

## **Do we 'just' watch films?**

Obviously, watching films is a key aspect of the course but this is an active and reflective experience, where students focus on specific elements and take notes whilst viewing, to enhance subsequent discussion and essay writing. However, the course also offers students opportunities to develop many other skills: debating; research; creative writing; time-management; collaboration; planning; cinematography; editing and sound editing skills.

## **How is Film Studies seen by Universities and employers?**

The subject helps students prepare for the wider world of work brilliantly, as it helps foster initiative, confidence and collaborative skills that are needed in any discipline or career.

For further information:

Contact Mr R Evans, Head of Film and Media

**Telephone: 0117 353 2073**

**Email: [6thform@smrt.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:6thform@smrt.bristol.sch.uk)**

**[www.smrt.bristol.sch.uk](http://www.smrt.bristol.sch.uk)**

