



Module Specification

Contemporary Cinema

Version: 2023-24, v3.0, 09 Jan 2023

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Contemporary Cinema

Module code: UPGN5T-30-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Faculty: Faculty of Arts Creative Industries & Education

Department: ACE Dept of Creative & Cultural Industries

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Not in use for Modules

Field: English

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: Culture, Sustainability and Consumption 2023-24

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: Pre-requisites: Students must have taken UPGN4X-30-2 Hollywood and World Cinema OR UPCN9W-30-2 Culture, Sustainability and Consumption

Educational aims: See Learning Outcomes

Outline syllabus: The module explores current issues and debates in film culture, by combining three key approaches:

Production trends: Students study both independent and mainstream trends, including the impact of digital technology on filmmaking. We pay close attention to specific films and themes, enabling students to enhance their critical reviewing and textual analysis skills.

Distribution and exhibition practices: Students learn about the economic organisation of film distribution and exhibition, and how digital technology has transformed the industry. We explore different exhibition platforms (e.g., arthouse cinemas, multiplexes, online streaming, Youtube) and consider how these affect the kinds of films screened. We will use one of Bristol's arthouse cinemas as a case study, to give professional insight into programming and marketing strategies.

Film and the culture industries: the module also pays special attention to the role of festivals, events, websites, film journalism and blogging within contemporary film culture. These are explored in the context of critical debates about the cultural function of cinema and film (e.g., debates around social access and participation, taste formations). We will use one of Bristol's film festivals as a case study, giving professional insight into festival curation, events management and enterprise.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Scheduled learning: The module combines a one-hour lecture, film screening and two-hour seminar.

Semester 2 embeds professional experience in the curriculum through live briefs, feeding into the Pitch and Project assessments.

Students have the opportunity for tutorials at key points in the year, providing support for assignments.

Independent learning: Students are expected to prepare for lectures, screenings and seminars by completing core readings and, in Semester 1, writing a weekly blog entry. The blog will be discussed in seminars, providing ongoing peer feedback to enhance writing skills; the blog forms the basis of the Portfolio assessment.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Demonstrate critical and professional understanding of the economic, technological and aesthetic factors shaping contemporary film culture

MO2 Demonstrate detailed knowledge of the cultural role of cinema

MO3 Identify, research and analyse trends and themes within contemporary cinema

MO4 Reflect critically on their own work and professional experience

MO5 Demonstrate advanced critical reviewing and writing skills

MO6 Demonstrate advanced oral communication and pitching skills

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Total = 300

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/upgn5t-30-3.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/upgn5t-30-3.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The module encourages students to work independently to explore different facets of contemporary cinema – critical, professional and cultural – and to develop knowledge, skills and professional experience relevant to potential careers in the culture industries. The assessment strategy provides a framework

flexible enough to accommodate diverse interests.

Assessment 1 assesses students' ability to pitch an idea in response to a live brief. In addition to enhancing oral presentation skills, the ability to articulate ideas in a professional context is useful practice for future interviews.

Assessments 2 and 3 recognise diversity by enabling students to enhance their skills in areas of specific interest, at the level of both content and form. Students' blogs will be read in seminars and students will receive advice from tutors on selecting a sample for the assessed Portfolio (designing out plagiarism) to ensure the learning outcomes are achieved. The Project assignment will be designed by the student in response to a live brief, with support and advice from module tutors and industry partners.

The Assessment:

Assessment 1: Pitch (5 minutes) with supporting documentation. Students pitch an idea to industry partner/s in response to a live brief.

Assessment 2: Portfolio (3000 words). The portfolio explores a trend or theme in contemporary cinema and/or film criticism. The portfolio includes a critical rationale, a selection of blog entries and a self-reflection.

Assessment 3: Project (3000 words or equivalent)

Students devise a project on an aspect of contemporary cinema. This should fit with one of the three key approaches explored on the module: production trends; distribution and exhibition practices; or film and the culture industries. Students who pitch a successful idea for the live brief can develop this further for the project; in these cases, students can work in small groups on the project, but will be assessed on their individual contribution.

Assessment components:

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: Pitch (5 minutes) with supporting documentation

Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO6

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: Portfolio (3000 words)

Weighting: 37 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO4, MO5

Project (First Sit)

Description: Project (3000 words or equivalent)

Weighting: 38 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Presentation (Resit)

Description: Pitch (5 minutes) with supporting documentation

Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO6

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Portfolio (3000 words)

Weighting: 37 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO4, MO5

Project (Resit)

Description: Project (3000 words or equivalent)

Weighting: 38 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Film Studies [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Film Studies [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Film Studies {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Liberal Arts [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] - Not Running BA (Hons) 2020-21

Film Studies [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20

Film Studies {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20

Film Studies [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2018-19