Module Specification

Film Style and Meaning

Version: 2025-26, v2.0, Approved

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Film Style and Meaning

Module code: UPGN4R-30-1

Level: Level 4

For implementation from: 2025-26

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Arts, Technology and Environment

School: CATE School of Arts

Partner institutions: None

Field: English

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Film Style and Meaning introduces students to a range of key terms and concepts needed to analyse film texts in close critical and contextual detail. In addition to this, it also investigates the role of film criticism in contemporary film culture, both in written and in audiovisual formats.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The module introduces students to the key terms, concepts and skills needed to analyse film texts in close critical and contextual detail.

Outline syllabus: The module introduces students to the key terms, concepts and skills needed to analyse film texts in close critical and contextual detail. Students learn how to describe and analyse aspects of film style, including sound, mise-en-scene, cinematography, editing and special effects. We also explore affective dimensions of film style, reflecting on how elements such as sound, framing, colour, rhythm and pace impact on our experience and understanding of film. We study a range of filmmaking styles, including different film forms, genres and movements.

This knowledge is then put into practice by exploring the role of film criticism in contemporary film culture. Students explore these different approaches through formative tasks, enhancing their own writing skills and audiovisual literacy by learning basic website, layout and digital editing skills.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Scheduled learning: Lectures provide frameworks for each week's topic, including a weekly screening. Workshops involve group discussion and practical exercises, learning basic technical skills. Students also explore different approaches to film analysis and film criticism through practical exercises, enhancing their own communication skills in the process.

Independent learning: Students will be expected to spend approximately 3-4 hours a week preparing for workshops by completing a practical task and a short reading to develop their skills and understanding. Students will also be expected to do further independent study as part of preparing their final portfolio.

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

> **MO1** Refine communication skills, adapt style and tone to effectively communicate ideas and research findings.

MO2 Demonstrate proficiency in the use of relevant tools, technologies, and techniques.

MO3 Critically evaluate own work, identify areas for improvement, and adapt learning strategies based on feedback and experience.

MO4 Describe and explain the elements of film style using appropriate terminology, to analyse the meanings and effects produced by different filmic choices.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/upgn4r-30-1.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The module aims to enable students to develop key skills in film analysis and criticism through workshop exercises. These skills feed directly into the assessment strategy. The assessment enables students to focus on individual areas of interest, drawing on a range of different skills: written, verbal, analytical, creative and technical.

Students will have some flexibility as to the forms and topics they include, enabling them to respond to their own learning style and skills, reflecting student diversity. Since the work is developed through workshop activities, the possibility of plagiarism is significantly reduced; tutors will see work-in-progress develop over the course of the module. Formative assessment points enable students to feed-forward tutors' comments to improve their skills before submitting the final Portfolio.

Assessment 1: Portfolio

The Portfolio comprises a rationale (500 words) and three pieces of film criticism:

* At least one piece will be written criticism (approx. 1000 words).

* At least one piece will be an audiovisual format (e.g., 2 min. audio-visual essay).

The assignment will be marked on a pass/fail basis.

The resit assignment will be the same as the first sit.

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: Portfolio (3500 words or equivalent)

Weighting: 0 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Portfolio (3500 words or equivalent)

Weighting: 0 %

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 [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26

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