



University of the
West of England

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Code: UACPAH-30-2 **Title:** Currents in Film Theory **Version:** 4

Level: 2

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Module type: Standard

Owning Faculty: CAHE **Field:** Cultural and Media Studies **Field leader:** J. Arthurs

Faculty Committee approval: CAC **Date:** 8th July 2011, **Chair's action**

Valid from: Sept 2011 **Discontinued from:**

Pre-requisites: UACPAE-30-1 Film Cultures

Co-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Learning outcomes:

By the end of this module students should be able to demonstrate:

- a working knowledge of a range of theoretical issues in contemporary film theory, and an understanding of the significance of these issues to the development of film studies (assessed through all components of assessment);
- the application of this knowledge to individual films through textual analysis, allowing them to develop arguments supported by appropriate evidence and critical reading (assessed through Component B - Element 2);
- a capacity to argue coherently in writing and orally, drawing on relevant evidence and theoretical approaches (assessed through all components of assessment);
- ability to conduct a close reading of theoretical material and apply it in the interpretation of film text(s) (assessed through Component B – Element 1);
- competence in the use of IT and multimedia in both research and the presentation of material (assessed through Component A – Element 1 and Component B - Element 2).

Syllabus outline

This module engages with a number of key topics in film theory through the analysis of a range of films selected from the gamut of film history and world cinema. The topics explored will be selected from e.g. film language and semiotics, narrative forms, sound and music, genre, realism, theories of authorship, psychoanalysis, Marxism, feminist theory, spatial discourse, postmodernism, third cinema and postcolonial theory, and historical representation.

Teaching and learning methods:

A variety of methods will be used:

- *Lectures*. To orient students towards the histories of debates in the topics under discussion and the import of current developments. Accompanied by screenings to present films that relate to the debates or that present the issues under consideration.
- *Seminars*. To provide a space for students to articulate their understanding of the issues and to debate their significance
- *Readings*. Selected to introduce key theoretical approaches and terminologies.
- *Independent learning*. Students will also undertake small group work, self-evaluation exercises and some independent research.

Reading Strategy

A module reader will provide access to key set readings. Further reading will be suggested through the module handbook, lectures and blackboard. Students are expected to make use of the library for further independent study, particularly in preparing for assessments. Where necessary/appropriate, key films and books will be held in the Short Loan Collection.

Assessment

Weighting between components A and B (standard modules only) A: 25% B: 75%

ATTEMPT 1

First Assessment Opportunity (Sit)

Component A

Description of each element	Element weighting
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1. Presentation	25%
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Component B

Description of each element	Element weighting
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1. Comprehension exercise (1500 words)	25%
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2. Essay (3000 words) <u>Final Element of Assessment</u>	50%
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(Equivalent output if submitted in a non-conventional format, requiring prior consultation with tutor.)

Second Assessment Opportunity (Resit) (further attendance at taught classes is not required)

Component A

Description of each element	Element weighting
1. Presentation	25%

Component B

Description of each element	Element weighting
1. Comprehension exercise (1500 words)	25%
2. Essay (3000 words)	50%

EXCEPTIONAL SECOND ATTEMPT (Retake): Attendance at taught classes is required.

Specification confirmed byJane Arthurs.....Date29/611.....

(Associate Dean/Programme Director)