



Module Specification

Film Style and Meaning

Version: 2023-24, v2.0, 18 Jan 2023

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Film Style and Meaning

Module code: UPGN4R-30-1

Level: Level 4

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: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

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: Semester One focuses on film language and forms. Students learn how to describe and analyse aspects of film style, including sound, mise-en-scene, cinematography, editing and special effects. This includes exploring different forms, such as narrative cinema, documentary and animation, to understand the ways in which style helps create meaning. The module also explores the affective dimensions of film style, reflecting on how elements such as sound, framing, colour, rhythm and pace impact on the viewer's perception, senses and emotions.

Semester Two extends students' engagement with film style by placing individual films into cultural context. For example, this could include specific film movements (such as the French new wave or Dogme 95), cycles of production (such as spaghetti westerns or British 'new wave' horror), and the politics of representation (such as New Queer Cinema or black film aesthetics). We will also consider relevant critical debates, such as auteur criticism and mise-en-scene, the new cinephilia, and the impact of digital technology on film style.

Throughout the module, we will also explore the role of film criticism in contemporary film culture, including digital forms such as audiovisual essays, online magazines and film blogs. Students explore these different approaches to film criticism through formative assignments, enhancing their own writing skills and audiovisual literacy. This includes learning basic digital editing and website skills, enabling students to develop their own audiovisual essay and online writing as part of the assessment strategy. In this context, students will also learn about Fair Dealing and copyright.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Scheduled learning:

Lectures provide frameworks for each week's topic, including links to relevant clips. Workshops involve group discussion and practical exercises, learning basic technical skills such as frame grabs, digital editing, encoding and uploading video files, and effective use of presentation and website software (e.g., embedding clips). Students also explore different approaches to film analysis and film criticism through writing exercises, enhancing their own writing skills in the process. Students have the

opportunity for one-to-one tutorials at least once a semester.

Independent learning:

Students spend approximately three-to-four hours a week preparing for the workshops. The nature of this preparation varies: some weeks, students will be asked to watch a film in their own time; they will also be asked to do a short piece of reading and/or writing, to explore elements of film style and different approaches to film criticism.

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

MO1 Describe and explain the elements of film form and style using appropriate terminology

MO2 Describe and analyse the meanings and effects produced by different filmic choices

MO3 Identify and explain the relationships between film texts and relevant critical and cultural contexts

MO4 Demonstrate awareness of different approaches to film criticism

MO5 Express ideas clearly and accurately in written and audiovisual formats, referencing sources correctly and demonstrating competency in the basic technical skills required for word processing, digital editing, presentation and/or website software

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/upgn4r-30-1.html) 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, oral, 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.

The Assessment: 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 a short audio-visual essay (approx. 2 minutes) or moving image presentation (approx. 5 minutes).

Assessment components:

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: Portfolio (3500 words or equivalent)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Portfolio (3500 words or equivalent)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Film Studies [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Film Studies [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Film Studies {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23