



Module Specification

Independent Research Project in Filmmaking

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Independent Research Project in Filmmaking

Module code: UALAV7-15-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2021-22

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

Faculty: Faculty of Arts Creative Industries & Education

Department: ACE Dept of Creative & Cultural Industries

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Bower Ashton Campus

Field: Lens and Moving Image

Module type: Project

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 aims to:

Develop students' critical thinking, making and/or writing skills, to stretch their

intellectual horizons and enhance their visual literacy.

Encourage students to study film and visual media from a range of interrelated historical, industrial, critical and practical perspectives.

Equip students with transferable skills that will be useful in a wide range of careers, including independent research, time management, presentation skills that will help make them more employable.

Encourage professional standards for the presentation of research material and develop a thorough knowledge and understanding of the chosen topic and a critical awareness of the relationship of student's own research to other work in the field.

Outline syllabus: The module supports students to undertake a self-initiated theoretical and investigative project that requires them to research a topic in depth that is particularly relevant to their practice and/or professional development. It allows students to synthesise and consolidate academic research and writing skills developed through the programme, and/or to demonstrate “critical making” skills in an audio-visual essay. In consultation with an allocated supervisor, students agree a suitable project which will enable them to demonstrate a high level of research, analytical and presentational skills. This can either take the form of a written dissertation or an audio-visual essay.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module is taught across both semesters. Sessions at the beginning of the module cover research methodologies and study skills, how to develop a research question, identify appropriate academic sources, effective note-taking, how to avoid plagiarism, how to draw on wider reading and viewing, how to structure an argument and audio-visual essay techniques. Library skills and study support sessions are also provided. In parallel with this students are assigned a personal tutor, with a relevant specialism, who will guide them in the formulation of an appropriate research topic and identify the best form for the project

to take.

Students decide by the end of the first semester whether to undertake a written dissertation or an audio-visual essay and are required to submit an assessed plan and bibliography. In the second semester the emphasis is on independent study, with on-going tutorial support. Although tutors provide advice and comment on draft work together with recommendations for reading, the responsibility for the dissertation/audio-visual essay and bibliography lies with the student. Students are required to show clear evidence of a wide range of reading and research and a critical approach to their studies as well as clear evidence of a theoretical approach.

The module is distinctive in that it offers students the option to explore their research topic through critical making as well as writing. The emphasis is on situating understanding in a wider critical context rather just writing ability; having the option to create an audio-visual essay enables students to explore film concepts visually, using their editing skills but still testing their ability to structure an argument and back up their points with evidence from both primary and secondary sources. Audio-visual essays can employ text over visuals, inter-titles, split-screen shot comparison, hyper-narration, voice over or a “super-edit” but, whichever formal approach used, there must be evidence of wider reading and viewing and all sources must be properly referenced in the credits.

Module Learning outcomes:

MO1 Design and structure an independent research project that is appropriate to your degree or field

MO2 Use relevant academic theories to critically evaluate and analyse material relevant to your research project

MO3 Use the conventions of academic writing including appropriate referencing with the UWE Harvard system

MO4 Choose an academic method of research or analysis that allows the successful exploration of your subject

MO5 Work independently and professionally under the guidance of an academic supervisor

MO6 Present and communicate your research using written and/or audiovisual techniques effectively

MO7 Research your topic using library/database searches; interviewing; use of archives (including online)

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 130 hours

Face-to-face learning = 20 hours

Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ualav7-15-3.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ualav7-15-3.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment is designed to enable students to present their independent research effectively and demonstrate an ability to situate their chosen topic within an appropriate critical context, drawing on their wider reading and viewing. Advice on how to avoid plagiarism and the correct referencing conventions will be included both in the Module Handbook and throughout the formal teaching and UWE Library Service sessions. Tutors will aim to pick up any issues with referencing that may lead to inadvertent academic offences.

Formative assessment:

Formative assessment will take place within the tutorial process with opportunities for feedback on research design, project development (proposal, essay plan), contextualisation and work in progress, through reviewing of drafts. Students can expect around five hours of tutorial support in total during the course of the academic year, which may include group meetings as well as individual tutorials with their supervisor, as well as email contact.

Summative assessment:

Component A1: Detailed Plan Presentation, plus and Bibliography (20%)

Component A2: Research Project (80%)

At the end of the first semester, students will be required to submit a detailed plan presentation together with a bibliography including key readings and viewings that will inform their research. Towards the end of the second semester, they will submit their finished research project. This can, by negotiation with an academic tutor, either take the form of a traditional 4,000 word essay or industry-focused study, or it could take the form of an audiovisual essay (of 3 – 5 minutes duration), plus a 500 word positioning statement.

Assessment criteria (as related to learning outcomes). Students will be assessed using the following criteria:

Research Question: the level of complexity and challenge, originality and imagination offered by the question; the extent to which it offers a significant and important contribution to an academic tradition or perspective (LO1, LO7);

Structure and Coherence of Argument: the level of developed interpretation of findings; analysis related to existing literature, interpreted for purpose of the research; discussions logically developed into a cogent, persuasive argument that address the research question; conclusions showing new insights, potential applications or limitations of the research and full review of attainment of objectives (LO1, LO2, LO4, LO6);

Critical Context and Methodology: the extent of a range of published literature and up-to-date information used and critically evaluated with original thinking evident; the level of significance of literature indicated and discussed in relation to the research aims and findings; the level of discipline and good planning in the investigation using appropriate method; critical discussion and evaluation of method as related to theory (LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4, LO7);

Presentation: the level of standard of appearance and the extent to which it is well-structured and displayed; no spelling or grammatical mistakes; text well-organised and articulated; writing concise and clear; all references noted appropriately in the text or in the credits; appendices used appropriately; established bibliographic conventions accurately maintained (LO3, LO6);

Professional Practice: the level of engagement, independent research, time management and organisation ability to design and conduct independent research under the guidance of tutorial supervision; evidence of time-management and organisation of research process (L01, L05, LO6).

Assessment components:**Presentation - Component A (First Sit)**

Description: Detailed Plan Presentation, plus bibliography

Weighting: 20 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7

Project - Component A (First Sit)

Description: Research project (4000 words or 3 to 5 minutes)

Weighting: 80 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7

Project - Component A (Resit)

Description: Research project (4000 words or 3 to 5 minutes)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Filmmaking [Sep][FT][Bower][3yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20