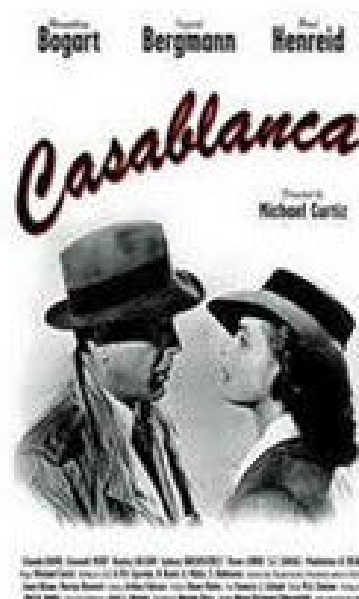


A LEVEL FILM STUDIES



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We study and analyse a diverse range of films from different parts of the world and from different periods: mainstream and independent, documentary, silent films, experimental and short films.

You will learn how to analyse and comment on how films are made – how the camera is used, location and setting, editing, sound and performance. We will explore how and why audiences respond in similar or different ways to film: how do films reflect their social, cultural, historical and technological contexts?

You will learn about theoretical approaches to film – for instance, different ideas about how narratives or stories are communicated and different ideas about how audiences engage with or are influenced by films.

Critical debate is a key feature of the course so you will develop skills to evaluate and interpret what you see and the ideas of others.

Examples of the films we will study include: *Casablanca* (classic Hollywood); *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (later Hollywood); *Joker* (contemporary mainstream US film); *This is England* (modern British); *City of God* (Brazilian film); *Pans Labyrinth* (Spanish/Mexican film); *Sunrise* (1920s silent film).

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Staff in our department are highly qualified and experienced at A Level teaching.

- Discussions in small groups and with the whole class
- Presentations and lectures
- Individual and group research
- Using on-line video resources
- Practical creative work
- How to use relevant software
- Improving your note-making
- Learning new theories
- Devising arguments and debates
- Making links between films
- Learning new technical terms
- Planning and writing essays
- Quizzes and learning games
- Effective revision

Students prepare for lessons by reading, viewing and research; we have excellent resources in the LRC and on-line. We then share and discuss ideas in the classroom. Our student feedback is outstanding and a high proportion of students are so inspired they carry on to study Film at university level.

A LEVEL ASSESSMENT

Component 1 (Exam: 35%)

- Hollywood 1930- 1990: compare Hollywood films from earlier and later periods.
- American film since 2005: study 2 films, one mainstream and one independent.
- British Film since 1995: study 2 British films.

Component 2 (Exam: 35%)

- Global Film: study of 2 films, one European and one from outside Europe.
- Documentary: study of 1 documentary film.
- Film movements – Silent Cinema: study of 1 silent film.
- Film Movements – Experimental film from 1960 – 2000.

Component 3 (Production Coursework: 30%)

- Produce a short film screenplay plus photo storyboard and written evaluation.

ENTRY AND SKILL REQUIREMENTS

We require at least a level 4 at GCSE English or English Language though we strongly recommend you have level 5 or above as the course involves well developed skills of reading and writing.

We organise optional trips and visits during the year – the average cost for one of our trips is about £25. (Students can of course apply for financial support.)

WHAT NEXT?

Film Studies goes well with a very wide range of other subjects.

The skills you learn are highly valued by employers in all areas of work: the ability to interpret challenging material, understand complex ideas, select evidence, research, analyse, construct an argument and write with confidence and plan and produce your own creative work. Film Studies A Level can lead to employment in the film and television industries, business, marketing, journalism, teaching, health, the media, the law, creative industries in the arts and many other areas of work.

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