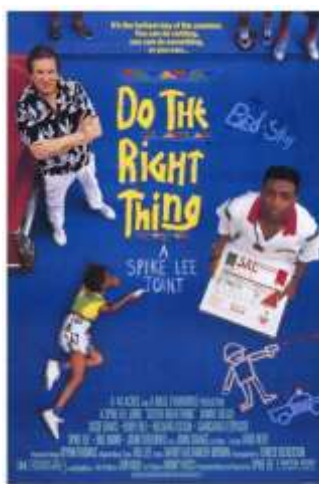
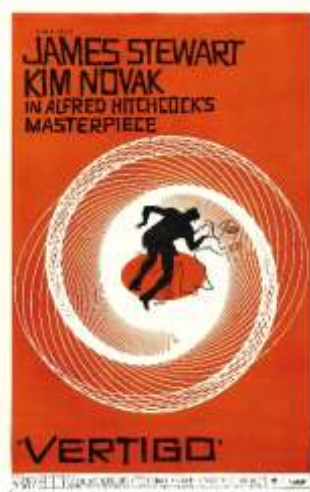


VI

Hartismere College



Film Studies

A STUDENT'S GUIDE TO THE AS AND A LEVEL IN FILM STUDIES

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Film Studies is designed to deepen your understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of film. You will study cinema as a medium, as an art form and as a social and economic institution. You will engage with a wide variety of films, developing skills of observation, critical analysis and personal reflection. In order to study this course, it is usual to have achieved at least grade 5 in GCSE English.

What will I learn on this A level course?

The course will enable you to develop your interest in and appreciation of cinema through a study of:

- the 'language' of film and the process of 'reading' a film
- how films create meaning and produce both intellectual and emotional responses
- the film industry as producers and audiences as consumers
- the messages, values and representations made in film, particularly in British and American cinema
- world cinema and its cultural diversity
- significant directors, producers and their films

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to students who:

- have an interest in watching and discussing a wide variety of films, past and present and from different cultures and countries
- enjoy expressing their opinions and justifying their comments on films
- enjoy studying a subject which is relevant to their own lives and experiences and culturally important.

The course will enable you to:

- watch and analyse a wide range of films from different genres, countries and times
- examine how narratives are constructed in film
- learn to understand and use the language of film such as 'mise-en scene', 'cinematography' and 'editing'
- understand what it means to be a 'spectator' or audience and examine film consumption
- create film sequences, write screenplays, storyboards and film reviews
- examine aspects of the film industry as a business including aspects of finance, production and distribution
- analyse the messages and values communicated in films
- undertake research tasks based on a specific director, actor, auteur or genre
- analyse and discuss examples of European and world cinema
- develop an understanding of film forms, history and culture such as modernism, silent cinema, the avant-garde and postmodernism.
- undertake specialist studies in aspects of cinema such as experimental film making, censorship, interpretation and gender.

Advanced Level

Component 1: Varieties of film and film making (35% of A Level)

Students study:

- examples of films made in Hollywood between 1930 and 1960 and in New Hollywood 1961- 1990
- examples of contemporary US, contemporary indie and recent Hollywood cinema
- British films since 1995

Component 2: Global film making perspectives (35% of A Level)

Students study:

- Global films – one European and one world film
- Documentary film
- Silent cinema
- Experimental film

Component 3: Production (non-exam assessment) (30% of A Level)

This component assesses one production and its evaluative analysis.

Learners produce either a screenplay for a short film (1600-1800 words) plus a digitally photographed storyboard of a key section from the screenplay and an evaluative analysis.

AS Film Studies

Component 1: American film (35% of AS)

Students explore:

- how filmmakers make meaning
- what it means to be a spectator
- film language and terminology

- **Section A: Hollywood 1930-1990 (comparative study)**

Referencing two Hollywood films

- **Section B: Contemporary American independent film**

Referencing one contemporary American independent film (produced after 2010).

Component 2: European film (35% of AS)

In this unit you will:

- explore how the British and European film industries work
- study two British films
- study one non-English language European film

- **Section A: British film (two-film study)**

Referencing two recent British films.

- **Section B: Non-English language European film**

Reference to one non-English language European film.

Coursework Component 3: Production (30% of AS)

Non-exam assessment

Students produce:

- A screenplay for an extract from a film highlighting narrative construction plus a digitally photographed storyboard of a key section from the screenplay (approximately 1½ minutes' screen time, corresponding to approximately 15 storyboard shots) (20%)
- Evaluative analysis: an evaluative analysis of the production in comparison with other professionally produced films or screenplays. (10%)

The A level in Film Studies acknowledges that most students already have a high degree of 'visual literacy' and develops this. The AS makes a good 'fourth' subject for many students and also offers a sound basis for progression to undergraduate studies in film, media and many other technical and artistic areas. With its options in creative work, it opens up the study of film aesthetics and film form, as well as broader political and ethical issues through experiential learning. It requires students to consider individual, moral, ethical, social, cultural and contemporary issues.

The full specification and other details are also available on the Eduqas website at www.eduqas.co.uk.

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