

Film Studies Induction Work

Dear student,

Film Studies 2020...action!

Sorry for the cheesy opening but we thought you would appreciate an attempt at humour in these strange times. So, Film Studies, what do you need to know and how can you prepare for this amazing course before next term. Well, here are a few thoughts which we hope will be of help to you.

What I need to know.

We follow the WJEC/ Eduqas A-Level Syllabus. In short, you will study 11 feature films and a set of short films, which range in length from a few minutes to thirty or so. We do not feel that watching these films before September is necessarily a good idea, but having a genuine interest in films as texts is essential. We will not list all the films we will study here, but there will be a large range of films, from the Hollywood Classic "Casablanca" to the British ZomRomCom "Shaun of the Dead". The course consists of two exam papers (or Components as they are referred to by the exam board) and a piece of Production coursework (which will consist of a Screenplay and Evaluation). More information can be found here: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/film-studies-as-a-level/#tab_overview

What do I need to do?

Research Task

Find out all you can about what is referred to by academics as the *Classical Hollywood* period.

- What were "The Big Five" studios of the day? How did they control the film industry between them?
- Casablanca is a well-known film that we study. Which studio made it and who directed it? What is the historical context of the film? (clue- it was made in 1942). How were so-called "Studio Films" made at this time? Humphrey Bogart was a big star at that time, what can you find out about his professional and personal life?
- What was The Hays Code and how did it limit filmmaking during this period?

Viewing Task

Pre-viewing- What would your expectations be of a Western Film? What elements/ ingredients would it contain?

Now watch *The Gunfighter* (it's a 9 minute film and has a little bad language in it so don't watch it in front of your little siblings): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWs4WA--eKU>

How were your expectations subverted?

We look forward to seeing you in September, raring to go and analyse all things film. Enjoy your next visit to the cinema- perhaps to see *Toy Story 9*?

Any questions then please do not hesitate to ask. In terms of work we feel that it is preferable to learn and view together next term, but we can always give you more things to research that would be useful if you want, just drop us an email.

Yours faithfully,

Mr A. Howell (ahowell@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk) and Miss L. Smith.