

## **WJEC Eduqas Film Studies A Level**

Film is one of the main cultural innovations of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and a major art form of the last hundred years. Those who study it characteristically bring with them a high degree of enthusiasm and excitement for what is a powerful and culturally significant medium, inspiring a range of responses from the emotional to the reflective.

Film Studies is a fast-growing subject, increasing in popularity at both A Level and degree level. The Film Studies course at Key Stage 5 provides a broad experience of many different aspects of film construction and the film industry. This is coupled with the opportunity to both carry out independent research and produce your own screenplay.

The WJEC Eduqas specification is designed to introduce A Level, learners to a wide variety of films in order to broaden their knowledge and understanding of film and the range of responses films can generate. This specification therefore offers opportunities to study mainstream and independent American and British films from the past and the present as well as more recent non-English language European films.

Students will then go on to study silent film and significant film movements so that they can gain a sense of the development of film from its early years to its still emerging digital future. Studies in documentary, experimental and short films add to the breadth of the learning experience. At A Level 70% of course content is tested by examinations.

Production work is a crucial part of this specification and is integral to the student's study of film (30%). Studying a diverse range of films from several different contexts is designed to give students the opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding of how films are constructed by writing their own screenplay. This is intended to enable students to create high quality screenplay work as well as provide an informed filmmaker's perspective on their own study of film.

The course is additionally designed to reflect the diversity of film culture through both filmmakers and the films they make. The wide choice of films offered includes films by women directors and films which represent particular ethnic and cultural experiences.

The specification consequently provides a framework for the systematic study of a broad range of film as well as providing opportunities for creative work, an integral part of film study. Most of all, it offers the opportunity to explore a range of important ideas and emotions, reflect on art and technology and connect theory and creative practice in ways which are designed to provide an absorbing and motivating educational experience.

Assessment on this course is made via 2 exam components and 1 piece of coursework with WJEC Eduqas exam board.

### **What grades do I need at GCSE level?**

You will need a GCSE grade 5 in English Language plus a grade 4 in Maths.

### **What other subjects should I study?**

Film Studies will appeal to anyone who has a keen interest in 'the world around us' or more specifically in the industry itself. Students who share an interest in English, Art, Drama, ICT or Design will find the creative and technical aspects of these subjects invaluable when addressing issues raised within the subject.

### **What about choices after A-Levels?**

Film Studies has become a popular subject at degree level. Many universities deliver the subject either as a core subject, or as a combined degree with other areas such as English, Theatre and Television, Philosophy and modern Languages. For those who do not wish to progress to a further qualification in Film Studies, this specification provides a coherent, engaging and culturally valuable course of study.

If you require advice or further information about Film Studies at Idsall School, then please contact Mr A Howell on the following email: [ahowell@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk](mailto:ahowell@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk)

Course Content

**Component 1- Varieties of Film 2 hrs 30 mins (35% of the final grade)**

- Section A Hollywood 1930-1990-The auteur

Casablanca and Bonnie & Clyde (comparative study)

- Section B American film since 2005- Spectatorship and Ideology

Winter's Bone and La La Land (two-film study)

- Section C British Film-Narrative and Ideology

Trainspotting and Shaun of the Dead (two-film study)

**Component 2- Global Film making Perspectives 2 hrs 30 mins (35% of the final grade)**

- Section A Global

Wild Tales and Pan's Labyrinth (two-film study)

- Section B Documentary Critical debate (the significance of digital technology in film) and film makers theories (Broomfield and Moore)

Amy

- Section C Silent- Critical debate (the realist and the expressive)

Buster Keaton shorts

- Section D Experimental Film- Narrative and alternative forms of narrative

Pulp Fiction

**Component 3- Production (30% of final grade)**

Students are required to produce a Screenplay (1600-1800 words), an evaluation (1600-1800 words) and a digital storyboard.

All of the course will be covered in Year 12 with the exception of Sections B and C from Component 2 and Component 3, which will be covered in Year 13.