

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: FILM THEORY
Status: Definitive
Code: **4515CPACR** (100024)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2011

Owning School/Faculty: Liverpool Screen School
Teaching School/Faculty: Accrington & Rossendale College

Team	Leader
Ross Dawson	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ4
Credit Value: 10.00
Total Delivered Hours: 36.00
Total Learning Hours: 100
Private Study: 64

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	10.000
Seminar	20.000
Tutorial	6.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	Seminar Booklet	10.0	
Essay	AS2	Coursework case study that critically evaluates either one star, auteur, genre, or studio – 1500 words	40.0	
Exam	AS3	Extract Analysis under controlled conditions, examining and analysing film form and narrative with emphasis on cinematic codes - viewing 30 minutes, writing 1 ½ hours	50.0	

Aims

To examine key concepts in the analysis of film.

To introduce the institutional and historical context of the development of Hollywood Film Production.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate understanding of the concepts of film form and narrative.
- 2 Evaluate the relationship between genre, authorship and stars as a framework for analysing Hollywood films.
- 3 Demonstrate understanding of the history, development and significance of the Hollywood mode of production.
- 4 Examine a film extract with specific reference to cinematic codes and/or theories of narrative.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Essay	1	2	3	4
Essay	2	3	4	
Exam	1	4		

Outline Syllabus

The module introduces Film Theory within the institutional context of the history, development and significance of both the Hollywood and British modes of production. It covers the rise and decline of the Studio system, and analyses concepts of genre, authorship, and stardom. It also introduces literary theories of narrative such as those of Propp and Todorov, and adapts them to the study of film.

The module provides the theoretical base to explore major concepts in the analysis of both film and written texts. The semiotic tools developed in "Communication, Media and Culture" are applied to the visual language of diverse British and Hollywood films. The focus of the module is on the classic Hollywood period.

Learning Activities

Lectures, seminars, tutorials, screenings, private study.

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Ashby, J. & Higson, A.
Publishing Year	2000
Title	British Cinema, past and present
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Austin, T. & Barker, M.
Publishing Year	2003
Title	Contemporary Hollywood Stardom
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Austin, T.
Publishing Year	2002
Title	Hollywood, hype and audiences
Subtitle	selling and watching popular films in the 1990's
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Benshoff, H. & Griffin, S.
Publishing Year	2003
Title	America on Film
Subtitle	representing race, class, gender and sexuality at the movies
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Bordwell, H. & Thompson, K.
Publishing Year	2003
Title	Film art
Subtitle	an introduction
Edition	7th ed
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Bordwell, D.
Publishing Year	2004
Title	The McGraw-Hill film viewers' guide
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Jancovich, M. & Faire, L.
Publishing Year	2003
Title	The place of audience
Subtitle	cultural geographies of film consumption
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Lane, C.
Publishing Year	2000
Title	Feminist Hollywood from Born in Flames to Point Break
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Maltby, R.
Publishing Year	2003
Title	Hollywood Cinema
Subtitle	
Edition	2nd ed
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	McCabe, J.
Publishing Year	2004
Title	Feminist film studies
Subtitle	writing the woman into cinema (short cuts)
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Monaco, J.

Publishing Year	1999
Title	How to Read a Film
Subtitle	the world of movies, media and multimedia
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Nelmes, J.
Publishing Year	2003
Title	An introduction to film studies
Subtitle	
Edition	3rd ed
Publisher	
ISBN	

Notes

The module introduces Film Theory within the institutional context of the history, development and significance of both the Hollywood and British modes of production. It covers the rise and decline of the Studio system, and analyses concepts of genre, authorship, and stardom. It also introduces literary theories of narrative such as those of Propp and Todorov, and adapts them to the study of film. The module provides the theoretical base to explore major concepts in the analysis of both film and written texts. The semiotic tools developed in "Communication, Media and Culture" are applied to the visual language of diverse British and Hollywood films. The focus of the module is on the classic Hollywood period.