

Liverpool John Moores University

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Title: Forging the People's War: film and cinema in Britain during the Second World War.
Status: Definitive
Code: **7103MHIST** (127249)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
David Clampin	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ7
Credit Value: 30
Total Delivered Hours: 41
Total Learning Hours: 300
Private Study: 259

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	3
Seminar	22
Workshop	16

Grading Basis: 50 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	Critical essay exploring the theoretical nature of propaganda and how that might be applied to film as a medium in Britain during the Second World War (4,000-words)	50	
Report	AS2	Extended comparative review of two of the films studied on the module (4,000-words)	50	

Aims

Develop an understanding of the workings of film production and exhibition in Britain between 1939 and 1945.

To chart key themes and objectives of British home front propaganda and how they were represented in film.

Appreciate the nature of British popular engagement with the Second World War.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Critically evaluate the nature of propaganda in historical context and how it works.
- 2 Evidence a sophisticated grasp of trends in relation to popular engagement with the war over time and how the government responded to that.
- 3 Show a critical awareness of key thematic strands in British home front propaganda as addressed in film.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

Essay	1	2	3
Report	3		

Outline Syllabus

This module is designed to examine films produced in Britain, for British audiences, between 1939 and 1945. By focussing on a range of films, an understanding of the British government's propaganda policy during the Second World War will be developed alongside a detailed knowledge of the processes, functions, execution and themes of propaganda. At the core of the module will be a critical approach to film as a source and a structured reading of the films. This will draw on, and be related to, the key schools of thought regarding the nature of film on the British home front. By applying each of these frames to the films to be considered, debate and discussion will be opened up to establish the drivers and influence on national culture. Whilst this module will reflect on the history of propaganda in general through this time, it will also speak to the nature of popular engagement with the war, and the effectiveness of these initiatives as related through popular responses to these films.

Learning Activities

Key introductory structured, tutor led sessions.

Showing of complete, key films.

Seminar discussion and debate following film shows.

Notes

Students on this module will watch and analyse a different film each week. Films and key themes may include: British home front propaganda policy and the nature of film production or The MoI Films Division; History and Heritage: The Young Mr Pitt (1942); War and realism: Fires Were Started (1943); Know your enemy: Went The Day Well? (1942); Class: Millions Like Us (1943); Women: The Gentle Sex (1943); Building a new society: The Way Ahead (1944).