

UCL SUMMER SCHOOL

ACTION! INTRODUCTION TO FILM STUDIES

Key Information

Module code	ISSU1001
Taught during	Session One: Monday 3 July - Friday 21 July 2017
Module workload	45 teaching hours plus approximately 100 study hours
Module leader	Dr Cristina Massaccesi
Department	School of European Languages, Culture and Society, Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Credit	15 UCL credits, 7.5 ECTS, 4 US
Level	Level 1, first year Undergraduate
Pre-requisites	Standard entry requirements
Assessment	Two 500-word reports (15% each) 2,500-word essay (70%)

Module Overview

This module will introduce students to the discipline of Film Studies by focusing on the main theoretical and technical aspects of filmmaking. Through lectures, seminars, screenings and excursions, students will learn how to approach and discuss films analytically and will acquire an awareness of the history and development of cinema and of the key concepts that can be used to discuss and write about films.

Week One: History of Cinema

- The Birth of Cinema
- Silent Cinema: German Expressionism and Soviet Montage
- The Golden Age of Hollywood
- The Digital Age

Week Two: The Film as Text

- Setting the Scene: Mise-en-scène
- Creating a Story: Editing
- Hearing Films: Elements of Sound Design
- Visit to the BFI National Archive

Week Three: Film Genres

- The Documentary Genre
- The Comedy Genre
- The Horror Genre
- Visit to the Stanley Kubrick Archive

Module Aims

The aim of this module is to familiarise the students with those elements that are at the basis of film analysis while developing an appropriate technical vocabulary to be used in class discussions and in their written assessments. They will focus on the features of the main cinematographic genres (horror, documentary, drama etc.) and on the history, development and impact of important movements such as German Expressionism, Soviet cinema, Italian Neorealism, American independent cinema et cetera.

Teaching Methods

Interactive lectures and seminars, open class and small group discussions, film screening, excursions, group work and private study. Reading lists will be available online via the UCL library site. Students will be directed towards class materials, further support and discussion forums on Moodle.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module, students will have:

- Acquired appropriate technical vocabulary and cinematic terminology (e.g. mise-en-scene, editing, sound etc.);
- Developed their analytical skills when conducting a formal investigation of films;
- Become aware of a set of social, cultural and political issues which have triggered or are connected with key developments and tendencies in the history of cinema (e.g. silent cinema, the advent of synchronized sound, avant-garde, auteurism, digital cinema, genre theory etc.);
- Developed their ability to discuss films in a written and oral manner through presentations, in-class discussions, sequence analyses etc.;

Assessment Methods

- 500-word report (15%)
- 500-word report (15%)
- 2,500-word essay (70%)

Key Texts

Altman, Rick (1999) *Film/Genre*. London: BFI Publishing.

Bordwell, David and Kristin Thompson (eds) (2009) *Film History: an Introduction*. Boston: McGraw-Hill.

Corrigan, Timothy and Patricia White (2009) *The Film Experience*. Boston: Bedford St Martin's.

Hill, John and Pamela Church Gibson (eds) (1998) *The Oxford Guide to Film Studies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Hollows, Joanne and Mark Jancovich (eds) (1995) *Approaches to Popular Film*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

Monaco, James (2000) *How to Read a Film*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.