

FILM STUDIES



Examination Board: WJEC

[GCSE Film Studies](#)

Course Description

GCSE Film Studies is a two-year course. During this time, you will study a range of films. These will obviously include mainstream Hollywood products, both new and old, such as *Juno* (2007), *E.T.* (1982) and *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956). You will also study films from around the world, such as the South African mock documentary / sci-fi film *District 9* (2008) as well as films that are *not* in the English language, like *Let the Right One In* (2009). Of course, you will also look closely at British films, including Richard Ayoade's teen drama / comedy *Submarine* (2010).

Do note that several of your study films (in both Yr10 and Yr11) carry BBFC 15 Certificates. Please ensure that you and your family are comfortable with this *before* opting to study Film GCSE.

This course also gives you the opportunity to write a short screenplay, which you will then critically evaluate.

Assessment

Your Film Studies GCSE comprises THREE *components*:

Component One: *Key Developments in US Film*
90-minute exam
35% of the GCSE

Component Two: *Global Film: Narrative, Representation and Film Style*
90-minute exam
35% of the GCSE

Component Three: *Production*
Non-exam assessment (NEA)
30% of the GCSE

In GCSE Film lessons, students are expected to work co-operatively in groups as well as independently throughout the course. Small-group discussion and debate are encouraged. You will be expected to share your individual thoughts and reactions to a wide variety of films.

You will be expected to read independently around the subject, organise yourself and work hard to meet all internal and external deadlines. Film Studies is *not* an easy option. It is a very academic discipline. However, it is fun, rigorous and rewarding.

*“Most people enjoy films; most are happy to make claims about how they make us feel (emotive claims) and what we think about them (evaluative claims). We might, for example, say that a particular film made us cry, or frightened us, or had us ‘on the edge of our seats’. We might say a film is a ‘must see’, that ‘it wasn’t as good as his last’, that it ‘stinks’, or that it was a great story. Film Students look beyond such claims to ask how and why films make us feel the way that they do, and why we think some films are better than others. It requires that we move beyond the story and look rather at the **form** of the film – how it is put together.”*

James Mooney 2013 (www.filmandphilosophy.com)

Why Study Film?


Film is widely acknowledged as *the* major art form of the 20th Century and today film continues to be an important part of most people’s cultural experience. The GCSE Film Studies course is designed to build upon students’ own experience of film – as consumers and creators – and to encourage a recognition of the complexity of this experience within an increasingly globalised, interconnected environment.


Starting with the familiar, the course allows students to study films and the ways in which they are experienced, the importance of visual representation in today’s global society and the place film has in communicating ideas, attitudes and cultural beliefs, both now and in the past.


We approach this through seven inter-related study areas, which act as a framework for studying film:

- Film Language
- Contexts of production and consumption
- Narrative
- Representation
- Style / Aesthetics
- Specialist Writing
- Genre

The aim of GCSE Film Studies is to enable YOU:

 to develop **your** analytical and textual analysis skills. To help **you** become confident readers of films in terms of key universal concepts such as *narrative, genre, representation* and *aesthetics*.

 to develop **your** research, investigative and writing skills. To help **you** develop the academic and practical skills to work both *independently* and *collaboratively*.

 to develop **your** evaluative skills that allow **you** to evaluate **your** own writing in relation to professional writing.

“Film is life, with the dull bits cut out”
(Alfred Hitchcock, Film Director)

Further information on Film Studies can be obtained from Mr J Olliver, Head of Film Studies (JOlliver@stbarts.co.uk).