

Film Studies

Subject Leader: Mr. P. Lynch
Exam Board: OCR
A Level

Many consider film to be the main cultural innovation of the 20th 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. Learners at St Mary's will be introduced 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 global films, both non-English language and English language. The historical range of film represented in those films is extended by the study of silent film and significant film movements so that learners can gain a sense of the development of film from its early years to its still emerging digital future.

• **Film History**

Section A: Film Form in US Cinema from the Silent Era to 1990: - This section focuses upon the micro-elements of film form and the construction of meaning and response by both filmmaker and spectator.

- The Gold Rush (1925). Directed by Charlie Chaplin. USA, U
- Vertigo (1958). Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. USA, PG
- The Conversation (1974). Directed by Frances Ford Coppola. USA, 12

Section B: European Cinema History:

German expressionism:

- The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (1920). Directed by Robert Wiene. Germany, U

Soviet montage:

- Battleship Potemkin (1929). Directed by Sergei M. Eisenstein. Russia, PG

• **Critical Approaches to Film**

Section A: Contemporary British and US Film

This section focuses on contemporary British and US film, focusing on both film as a text and the contexts that surround filmmaking, in particular the critical debates surrounding the production and exhibition of contemporary film.

Skyfall (2012), Directed by Sam Mendes with The Dark Knight Rises (2012). Directed by Christopher Nolan.

Section B: Documentary:

Man on Wire (2008). Directed by James Marsh OR Citizenfour (2014). Directed by Laura Poitras

Section C: Ideology – Conflict:

- US Independent: The Hurt Locker OR Whiplash (tbc)
- English Language (Non-US): Mad Max (Miller, 1979)
- Non-European Non-English Language: The Battle of Algiers (Pontecorvo, 1965)

Non-examined assessment

Making Short Film is a synoptic, non-examined assessment component that gives learners the opportunity to produce their own complete short film or screenplay for a short film.