Module Descriptor

Title	Cinema Aesthetics		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	Approved
Code	FILM07002	**SCQF Level**	7
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Module Co-ordinator	Dr. Andrew Jarvis		

Summary of Module

This module provides an introduction to film analysis. The key question that runs through the module is 'how do films work?' The module addresses this question by examining how films attract, retain and satisfy the attention of film viewers. Students will examine key aspects of film form with a particular focus on cinematic narrative and narration, and creative strategies concerning cinematic storytelling. This examination will pay close attention to the ways in which films make meaning and pleasure through conventionalised strategies of spectator engagement. Areas to be discussed include: narrative structure, narration, editing, mise-en-scene, staging for the lens, cinematography, sound and sound design. Students will engage with critical perspectives on these areas and pursue reflective enquiry into their own assumptions concerning the ways in which films work. In addition to developing and enriching their academic understanding, students will be encouraged to relate their critical studies to their creative practice as filmmakers in other modules.

The question 'how do films work?' will be answered by examining the following areas:

Narrative structure, with particular emphasis on the means by which filmmakers tell stories via the creation of goal-oriented characters within organised patterns of conflict and resolution.

Cinematic narration, with particular emphasis on how cinematic stories are told via techniques of focalisation, constructions of point of view, and the organisation of cinematic space and time.

Cinematic technique, with particular emphasis on techniques of cinematography, mise-en-scene, editing and sound design as means of achieving distinctive forms of cinematic storytelling.

Film form, with particular emphasis on the ways in which narrative structure and techniques of narration work together to cue and channel viewer comprehension.

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus[1] ☒	Hybrid[2] ☐	Online[3] ☐	Work -Based Learning[4] ☐
Campuses for Module Delivery	☒ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☐ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)	

Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	☒	Term 2	☐	Term 3	☐
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	L1. Explain how films work by analysing key features of narrative structure and cinematic storytelling.
L2	L2. Identify and analyse specific creative cinematic techniques concerning camera, sound, and editing in relation to their contribution to the construction of film form.
L3	L3. Apply appropriate technical terms and critical conceptualisations when analysing film form.
L4	
L5	

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	**During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:**
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	**SCQF 7** Understanding the ways in which key techniques of filmmaking construct meanings and affects. Demonstrating an awareness of the significance of different approaches to writing across a range of creative, and professional contexts.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 7** Applying fundamental analytical techniques and concepts that have been established as valid and effective within the field of film studies.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 7**

[1] Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[2] The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[3] Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[4] Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

	Present and evaluate arguments, information and ideas relating to critical analysis and creative practice
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 7** Using correct formatting techniques for presenting scripts, and for presenting academic essays. Gathering, organising and deploying ideas and information in order to formulate arguments cogently, and express them effectively in written, oral or in other forms.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 7** Working productively in a group or team, showing abilities at different times to listen, contribute and lead effectively.

Prerequisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**
	Other	
Co-requisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**

Learning and Teaching	
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours.	
Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	**Student Learning Hours** (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	30
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	6
Independent Study	152
Personal Development Plan	12
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: Bordwell, D. Thompson, K. (2023) Film Art: An Introduction. New York; McGraw Hill. Buckland, W. (2015) Film Studies, An Introduction. London; Teach Yourself. Corrigan, T. (2015) A Short Guide to Writing About Film. Boston; Pearson education Inc.

(N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements
In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time. **For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:** Attendance at scheduled classes and submission of assignments.

Equality and Diversity
The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code.
(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	**Arts Media**
Overall Assessment Results	☐ **Pass / Fail** ☒ **Graded**
Module Eligible for Compensation	☒ **Yes** ☐ **No** **If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.**
School Assessment Board	Arts and Media
Moderator	Ms. Rachael Stark
External Examiner	A. Nevill
Accreditation Details	ScreenSkills (UK delivery only)
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	2.11

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Written Assignment (1500 words) 50% of total mark)
Assessment 2
Written Assignment (1500 words) 50% of total mark)
Assessment 3

(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed.

(ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Essay	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	50%	18

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Essay	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	50%	18

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	36 hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**