Programme Specification

Film Studies (2018-19)

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Full-time
Duration in years	1
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Master of Arts (MA)
Name of award	Film Studies
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education
	Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme code	4144
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Master's Degree Characteristics 2016
Programme Lead	Kevin Donnelly (kjd1u06)

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The programme can be studied Part Time (4145).

The MA programme in Film Studies provides a flexible course of study which concentrates on a considered and theoretical approach to methods of research, while embracing precise textual analysis and film history as well as offering a choice of options to suit your own interests.

Compulsory modules on the programme enable you to engage with crucial topics concerning film studies research. Core modules will assist you in developing your academic research skills and ability to engage in independent study. A number of option modules are offered which will enable to you to develop particular areas of interest in film studies.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Learning and teaching

Seminar discussion and one-to-one tutorial sessions will enable you to develop your critical thinking skills and to engage with a range of theoretical concepts, applying them to the study of film texts and issues in cultural management. Oral presentations, both individual and as part of a group, will develop your communication skills and your ability to present your research findings in a cogent, succinct manner. They will also build your self-confidence in public speaking. Written essays, reports and an independent research project will develop your written communication skills as well as your capacity to employ a range of research methodologies. They will enable you to display your engagement with theoretical arguments and your understanding of critical debates in film studies and the field of cultural management.

Assessment

A range of assessment methods are employed to facilitate your intellectual development, understanding and knowledge as well as your communication skills. These include oral presentations, written essays, reports and a substantial dissertation on a subject of your choice. Each of the forms of assessment is designed to encourage you to explore your own research interests and hence to develop independent critical thinking.

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our Disclaimer to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's programme validation process which is described in the University's Quality handbook.

Educational Aims of the Programme

The aims of the programme are to:

- develop your critical awareness of debates and issues in Film Studies
- encourage you to reflect upon different methodologies, and to use them effectively in your own work
- enhance your capacity for independent thought and research
- encourage you to produce written work and scholarship to high professional standards
- enable you to use and evaluate a wide range of research tools, including electronic information retrieval and subject-specific archival resources

The programme aims to challenge many of the established tenets in the study of film and television, and you will be expected to participate actively in this process, whether in seminar discussion or your own writing. You will be encouraged to develop your own research interests, applying the skills and resources you acquire during the programme. At the same time, we foster a collaborative ethos in which students exchange knowledge and ideas. The emphasis is on progression towards shaping the direction of your degree yourself, rather than relying on your tutors to set the agenda for you. Your tutors are all highly regarded subject specialists with international research profiles in areas such as:

- Audience and reception studies
- Contemporary American cinema
- British and European cinema and television
- Transnational approaches to world cinema
- History, film and television
- Silent cinema
- Star study
- Film sound and music
- Gender and national identities
- Film theory and cultural theories

- Visual analysis

Within this context, the programme aims to provide a solid foundation on which to build your own pathway to future professional development.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of this programme you will have knowledge and understanding of:

A1. critical debates and issues in Film Studies

A2. cultural and social implications of the above

A3. different research methodologies

A4. cultural and social significance of film and television as a form of mass communication and as art

A5. history of film and television industries

A6. contextual approaches to film interpretation

Teaching and Learning Methods

Thinking skills are developed through activities such as seminar discussion, oral presentations, tutorial consultations, and through the essays and dissertation. As well as the use of web-based resources, wide reading and evaluation of secondary sources indicated on module reading lists are actively encouraged.

Assessment Methods

Some modules include projects designed to test your thinking skills. The dissertation is the primary method for testing your thinking skills, enabling you to progress from the critical evaluation of resources to building a cogent and original argument of your own.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

B1. design and execute effectively an advanced independent research project within in the field of Film Studies.

B2. engage critically with complex ideas and theories in Film Studies and express them succinctly.

B3. evaluate different research methods in Film Studies and apply them

B4. integrate theoretical concepts with the analysis of film texts.

B5. analyse the relationship between cinematic texts and various contexts (history, aesthetics, society, economics/industry).

B6. demonstrate an understanding of film as one of the most important mass media since the late 19th century, and its impact on social developments in a variety of cultural contexts

B7. demonstrate awareness of the intellectual development of Film Studies as a discipline and its relationship to other disciplinary traditions in the Humanities and beyond

Teaching and Learning Methods

Teaching and learning takes place through a variety of student-centred activities, mainly focused on seminar discussion, supported by one-to-one tutorial supervision. Those who wish for introductory film content are encouraged to attend the undergraduate lecture series Introduction to Film I and II. Student oral presentations, whether individual or group, are a central feature of seminar work, and of the Research Skills modules leading to the dissertation. Some modules include special writing projects or group activities. You are strongly encouraged to use web-based and library resources at Southampton and at the British Film Institute in London. Film Studies modules are accompanied by lecture theatre screenings. (Formats include 35mm, video and DVD). MA students are expected to attend the Film Studies Graduate seminar series.

Assessment Methods

The primary assessment method for testing your knowledge and understanding is an essay of no more than 4,000-words for each 15-credit module, the topic normally decided in consultation with the module tutor. Oral presentations delivered as part of the Research Skills module are also formally assessed. To gain the full MA award, you will need to complete an independently researched dissertation of no more than 15,000 words, which will demonstrate your acquisition of sophisticated knowledge and research skills and your ability to present your ideas and argument to professional standards in the appropriate academic style.

Transferable and Generic Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

C1. communicate ideas and arguments in a variety of written formats, to professional standards.

C2. communicate ideas and arguments orally and in the context of formal presentations, both in academic contexts and in other public engagements.

C3. identify, select and utilise a wide range of printed and electronic sources.

C4. demonstrate interpersonal skills while working with others in the investigation of problems, and in the presentation of arguments and evidence.

C5. demonstrate self-confidence and self-awareness both in collaborative activities and independent research, as well as respect for the ideas and work of others.

C6. lead discussion in seminars, and in other professional contexts (e.g. at conferences) effectively to achieve relevant feedback from the (peer) group.

C7. evaluate the usefulness of your primary and secondary sources.

C8. structure your own ideas and arguments lucidly and cogently

C9. edit and revise your written work.

C10. demonstrate originality in your own research and writing.

C11. manage deadlines and the effective use of your time.

C12. demonstrate verbal and linguistic skills to a high professional standard.

C13. utilise technology and audio-visual material effectively in oral presentations.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Your key skills are developed through the emphasis of the programme on active participation, independent learning and personal initiative. You are expected to read and research beyond the parameters of individual modules. Your ability to take responsibility for your work is aided by activities such as oral presentations, coursework essays, and the dissertation supported by one-to-one supervision. Through the dissertation you will demonstrate your ability to use your initiative in identifying a significant area for study, working independently on it and managing any problems that emerge along the way.

Assessment Methods

You will be asked to demonstrate your key skills through participating in individual and group presentations, class exercises, essays and the dissertation. The dissertation is a key element in establishing the acquisition of key skills appropriate to the MA as opposed to the Diploma.

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Part I

Programme details

The programme may be studied over one year (full-time) or two years (part-time). The programme consists of the equivalent of seven single modules, four of which are cores, plus a dissertation. It is worth 90 ECTS (180 CATS) overall. (ECTS = European Credit Transfer Scheme; CATS = Credit Accumulation & Transfer Scheme). Each taught module is worth 7.5 ECTS (7.5 ECTS (15 CATS). The Dissertation is worth 37.5 ECTS (75 CATS). If you satisfactorily complete the taught elements of the programme you will be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma.

The list of option modules is not exclusive and you may, in consultation with the convenor, choose a module offered by another Humanities MA. It may be possible for you to undertake an Individually Negotiated

Topic (INT) in place of an Option module once during your programme. This may be linked to the proposed dissertation but should never overlap with it, and must be agreed with the programme convenor and a named supervisor. INTs fall under the regulations of the Faculty.

Availability of Modules:

The information contained in programme specification is correct at the time it was published. Typically, around a quarter of optional modules do not run due to low interest or unanticipated changes in staff availability. If we do have insufficient numbers of students interested in an optional module, this may not be offered. If an optional module will not be run, we will advise you as soon as possible and help you choose an alternative module.

Part I Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
FILM6032	Classical Film Theory and Textual Analysis	7.5	Compulsory
FILM6028	Post-Classical Film Theory: Film History and Cinephilia	7.5	Compulsory

Part I Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
FILM6027	Film Studies Dissertation	37.5	Core
FILM6043	Preparing for the Dissertation (30 credit version)	15	Core
FILM6029	Research in Film Studies	7.5	Core

Part I Optional

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
FILM6045	Auteur filmmakers: case studies in cinema	7.5	Optional
FILM6033	Current Issues in Film Distribution and Exhibition	7.5	Optional
FILM6046	East Asian Action Cinema	7.5	Optional
FILM6034	Film Policy: National and Global Contexts (Research)	7.5	Optional
FILM6036	Film Studies Individually Negotiated Topic	7.5	Optional
FILM6031	Screen Stars in Context	7.5	Optional
FILM6044	The Holocaust in American Film	7.5	Optional

Progression Requirements

The programme will follow the University's regulations for ***Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes*** or the University's regulations for ***Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Standalone Masters Programmes*** as set out in the General Academic Regulations in the University Calendar: http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/sectIV-index.html

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 – 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia).
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career and Employability services, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls and in the local community, (18.00-08.00)
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

· library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
· high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
· computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
· standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
· access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
· IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Student Services Centre
· Enabling Services offering assessment and support facilities (including specialist IT support) if you have a disability, dyslexia, mental health issue or specific learning difficulties
· the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial

matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
· Career Destinations, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
· a range of personal support services : mentoring, counselling, residence support service, chaplaincy (multi-faith), health service, 'out of hours' service for students in Halls.
· a Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides:

· an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; Students' Union provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
· opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
· an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
· support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

· Completing student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme
· Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff: Student Liaison Committees, Faculty Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feed back on your behalf.
· Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation
· Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group
· Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES)

The ways in which the quality of your programme is checked, both inside and outside the University, are:
· Regular module and programme reports which are monitored by the Faculty
· Programme validation, normally every five years.
· External examiners, who produce an annual report
· A national Research Assessment Exercise (our research activity contributes directly to the quality of your learning experience)
· Higher Education Review by the Quality Assurance Agency

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the *Quality Handbook.*

Career Opportunities

The MA Film Studies programme is designed to equip you with a range of practical and intellectual skills that will enable you to complete your degree successfully, and put you in a good position to gain employment in the arts and media industries.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Dr Austin J Fisher - Bournemouth University

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their Personal Academic Tutor in the first instance.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

Appendix 1:

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme also have to pay for:

Additional Costs

Type	Details
Software Licenses	All software is provided
Hardware	It is advisable that students provide their own laptop or personal computer, although shared facilities are available across the University campus.
Computer discs or USB drives	Students are expected to provide their own portable data storage device.
Stationery	You will be expected to provide your own day-today stationary items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc.). Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.
Textbooks	Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source. Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.
Laboratory Equipment and Materials	All laboratory equipment and materials are provided.
Printing and Photocopying Costs	Where possible, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations is likely to be submitted on line. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy. The University printing costs are currently: A4 - 5p per side (black and white) or 25p per side (colour) A3 - 10p per side (black and white) or 50p per side (colour) Please Note: Paper sizes not recognised by the printing devices will prompt you to select the size and then charge a minimum of 50p per black and white copy and a maximum of £1 per colour copy. You can pay for your printing by using the money loaders or by using print copy payment service by going to http://www.southampton....ions/students/printing- for-students.page The University Print Centre also offers a printing and copying service as well as a dissertation/binding service. Current printing and copying costs can be found in http://www.southampton....copyrooms/service.page. They also provide a large format printing service, e.g. Academic posters. Details of current costs can be found in http://www.southampton..../academicposters.page?.

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.