

Minor Specification

Academic Year 2019-20 MO10 - Film Studies

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor 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
Name of minor	Film Studies
FHEQ level of final award	
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	National Qualifications Framework and QAA subject benchmarking descriptors for communication, media, film and cultural studies
Faculty that owns the minor	Arts and Humanities
Minor Leader	Shelley Cobb
Date specification was written	07 August 2013

Overview of Minor

1 Brief outline of the minor

This minor offers a coherent pathway of Film modules which will provide an introduction to Film Studies, enabling you to gain fresh insight into some of the most influential forms of visual art and communication over the past one hundred and twenty-five years. These modules will help you to understand how film – in a variety of forms – reflects, refracts, and shapes the ways in which we view our world, whilst enhancing your knowledge of other cultures and historical contexts through critical analysis of international cinemas and across a variety of time periods.

2 Learning and teaching

Modules are delivered through a variety of combinations of lectures, screenings, seminars and workshops. Lectures are often used to introduce a topic and key issues. Screenings and seminars complement lectures. Screenings require focused attention and notetaking; repeated viewings will allow you to make more detailed observations on the cinematic devices involved to support your analysis of the film. Seminars require you to prepare material in advance and encourage you to become actively involved in class, contributing to the discussion to develop your abilities to evaluate the material, to assess the arguments of others, and, in time, to formulate and articulate your own. All classes are supported by Blackboard, email and face-to-face communication with tutors (tutorials). Most modules offer dedicated consultation weeks. At each subsequent level of study, you will be encouraged to work more independently.

3 Assessment

The pattern of assessment for the Film Studies minor is varied, encouraging you, regardless of which modules you choose, to develop a breadth of skills and experience. Although the overall balance of the different types of assessment within your minor will ultimately depend upon which modules you choose, the emphasis throughout is on coursework.

The types of assessment you will encounter range from essays (of varying lengths) to individual and group presentations, audio-visual analyses, reviews, reports, bibliographic projects, and your own independent research. Your module tutor will provide guidance on assessment and give you feedback on your progress.

In addition to the knowledge you will gain in Film Studies and the development of your intellectual ability to research, evaluate and manage sources, and to formulate your own arguments, you will also be encouraged to develop key transferable skills, such as time management, the ability to work independently, and to work effectively within a team. You will also be encouraged to present your material in ways which are engaging and relevant to diverse readerships and audiences.

As the purpose of summative assessment (the marks which count towards your award) is to test whether you are meeting learning outcomes, assessments relate to the learning outcomes of each individual module. Assessed tasks are marked in accordance with published Faculty of Humanities' assessment criteria.

Educational Aims of the Minor

The Film Studies minor follows the overall aims of the BA (Hons) Film Studies programme. The selection of modules has been made to provide you with an introduction to selected key cinemas, periods, genres, and debates.

The aims of the programme are to:

- develop your cultural and historical knowledge and understanding of the contexts in which films are produced;
- develop your theoretical and analytical capacities;
- develop your skills as communicators who understand the key principles and practices of film-making, distribution and reception;
- produce analytical, productive team-workers.

Learning Outcomes for the Minor

Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed this minor, you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- historical and contemporary debates on specific national, international and transnational cinemas;
- the cultural, political, and economic contexts in which these film industries operate, and their social significance;
- how to engage critically in film studies.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Teaching and learning methods include lectures, screenings, seminars, workshops, oral presentations (both individual and group), individual and small group consultations, project work, and independent study and research.

- Lectures are often used to introduce, identify and explain an unfamiliar area of knowledge in a structured group situation.

- Seminars explore material through prior reading and subsequent discussion which is often student-led. They are conducted according to a variety of formats but the emphasis is on eliciting your participation. Seminar discussion also varies in style, and will frequently require team work and promote interpersonal skills. There is a clearly defined outcome and a process in which you personally have to participate.
- Oral presentations are regarded as an integral aspect of the learning experience. You will be asked at various points to prepare presentations on your own or as member of a small group. You will be given advice in how to structure, improve and maximise your performance in such activities. By the final year you will be chairing discussions and leading seminars.
- Your development as an independent learner is central to this programme. You will progressively become more independent, learning to construct your own topics of study, researching, managing and evaluating your sources, expanding the number of resources and techniques that you are able to handle in an appropriate and professional manner.
- You will be encouraged to develop a variety of IT skills in order to enhance your research and communicative competencies.

Assessment methods

A range of assessment methods is used in the programme. These include:

- individual oral presentation. Individual seminar presentations are a form of communication and so not only develop your knowledge of the subject area under discussion, but also develop key communication and employability skills.
- group oral presentation. Group presentations require and develop similar academic and communication skills to the individual presentation, but also refine your ability to work co-operatively in a group and to handle productively any conflicts which might arise. These are key employability skills.
- reviews of academic articles. This allows you to acquire detailed knowledge of the article under review, and to refine your writing skills, by presenting its overall argument succinctly with a scholarly apparatus, assessing its methodology, and engaging with its key points.
- reflective report. Presentation assessments are sometimes supplemented by a reflective report. This gives you the opportunity to reflect succinctly on how you planned, researched, and structured your presentation, and at more length on the efficacy and shortcomings of your strategies, how well your presentation was received, and how you will improve your presentations in the future.
- research report. The research report is particularly useful in providing experience of reviewing the scope and findings of your research. It will develop your skills in surveying the evidence you have uncovered, identifying trends, movements, and gaps in the debates around the topic.
- bibliographic essay. This form of assessment allows you to gain detailed knowledge of the subject matter of an academic field, and the key debates and issues within it, whilst developing your ability to evaluate your sources. It also develops your research skills and the ability to summarise key points concisely and accurately.
- essay (from 1,500 to 4,000 words in length). Essays of varying lengths develop and test your ability to review research materials, and identify key issues and debates in the field. They require you to develop a coherent argument, supported by the appropriate use of evidence, whilst developing your use of an academic register.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- demonstrate the ability to analyse and synthesise complex information and work with a variety of intellectual and professional processes;
- critique a film, with due attention to its cinematic and narrative devices;
- review the quality of professionals' contributions leading to a finished product;
- comment on the agenda and priorities of professional film-makers.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Activities include all those listed above in the 'Learning Outcomes for the Minor' section, subheading 'Teaching and Learning Methods' (pp. 2-3). Other activities include:

- student-led seminar discussion;
- group projects on specific topics;
- one-to-one tutorials with a tutor to discuss plans, outlines, and feedback, and to develop your thinking skills.

Assessment methods

All of the assessment methods listed above in the 'Learning Outcomes for the Minor' section, subheading 'Assessment Methods' (p. 3) are also used to develop subject-specific intellectual and research skills. A varied assessment portfolio is designed to develop the flexibility and range of your cognitive skills. For example, essays of different lengths, individual and group presentations will all enhance and assess your intellectual skills. Progression is built into the assessment scheme from level to level, moving from articulation of concepts through to synthesis and evaluation. In addition to those forms of assessment already listed, depending on your module choices, you may also be asked to produce:

- reviews of films. You will develop your ability to view film analytically as a medium with its own visual language, make appropriate notes through a number of repeated viewings, and place the film in its cinematic, industrial and cultural context. The construction of reviews enables you to consider appropriate modes of style, content, and address for a variety of readerships.
- Audio-visual analysis of a sequence. By producing an analysis of the interplay between aesthetic elements, you will develop your listening and critical skills by assessing how music dynamics, the interactions of sound, editing, and significant visual devices work to produce specific effects in cinema.

Transferable and Generic Skills

Having successfully completed this programme, you will be able to:

- research, evaluate and manage sources;
- communicate effectively in writing;
- produce a presentation appropriate to its audience;
- use current technology in an appropriate way to enhance a professional presentation of your work;
- work independently;
- work effectively as part of a team.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Activities include:

- Detailed consideration of the feedback on your work and the discussion of other students' arguments and propositions in class will help you to evaluate sources and material.
- Drafting and re-drafting written work will improve your writing skills.
- Receiving feedback on presentations, whether from the tutor or from your peers, will enable you to develop the effectiveness of future presentations.

Assessment methods

- Essays of varying lengths, research reports, article reviews, and bibliographic surveys are all used to enable you to develop your research skills, learn to evaluate sources, and to articulate an argument through the appropriate use of register and evidence.
- Individual and group presentations will provide you with experience in researching, managing and selecting material for presentation to others, through the use of engaging, relevant technologies, such as PowerPoint. Group presentations will provide a valuable learning experience in co-operation and team working.
- Reflective essays will develop your ability to assess accurately the efficacy of your own work, enhancing your ability to work effectively independently or in a group.

Structure of Minor

1 Typical content

[This will be used in the entry on the Minor website for marketing purposes]

The modules offered are a selection from the BA (Hons) Film Studies programme and you will be studying alongside students on the single and combined honours Film programmes. This selection is intended to introduce you to some key national and international cinemas, historical periods, and genres.

Some modules deal with national, international, and transnational cinemas, such as 'European Cinema', which deals with the developments of different European movements and cinemas since 1895, and 'World Cinema' which also raises issues of reception, production, and exhibition in a global context. Other modules take a more historical perspective, such as 'Early and Silent Cinema from 1895-1929', which engages with the earliest period of film history. There are also modules which focus more on film form, such as 'Introduction to Film: Hollywood', 'Music in Film and Television' and the final-year module, 'American Cinema since 1965' which enables you to examine changes and movements in American cinema since the decline of the studio system.

The minor in Film Studies is studied over three years full-time comprising five single modules, one at level four (first year), two at level five (second year), and two at level six (final year). (Single modules have a credit value of 15 CATS points.) One module is taken in each semester, starting in the second semester in the first year of your undergraduate programme (level four). Modules offered may vary from year to year, depending on staff availability. Please note that no more than two minor modules may be taken in any academic year. If you would like Film to form a greater proportion of your degree, you should consult the Film website at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/film/> where you will find information on the single-honours Film degree, as well as the combined-honours Film programmes, such as Film and English; Film and French; Film and German; Film and History; Film and Philosophy; and Film and Spanish.

2 Details of the minor

All modules are optional for students on the Film minor programme. Students must take one module at Level 1, two modules at Levels 2, and two modules at Level 3 (75 CATS points in total). (year 1 corresponding to 12.5% of one year of full-time study, and years 2 and 3 corresponding to 25% of one year of full time study excluding study abroad). Students must take Film1027 as a prerequisite for all modules at levels 2 and 3.

Our teaching is research-led at levels 2 and 3. As a result, the modules on offer vary from year to year as staff research interests and priorities develop and change. The following is an indicative list of the modules on offer:

Part 1		CATS	ECTS
FILM1027	Introduction to European Cinema	15	7.5

Part 2

Select two modules from the following:

FILM2002	Early and Silent Cinema, 1895-1929	15	7.5
FILM2006	Introduction to Film: Hollywood	15	7.5
FILM2020	World Cinema	15	7.5
FILM2026	Film, Realism and Reality	15	7.5
FILM2003:	Film Noir	15	7.5
FILM2028:	Film Adaptation	15	7.5
FILM2015:	Contemporary British Filmmakers	15	7.5
FILM2022:	Contemporary Chinese Cinema	15	7.5
FILM2023:	Animation: Technology, Culture & Industry	15	7.5
FILM2019:	Women & Hollywood	15	7.5

Part 3

Select two modules from the following:

FILM3006:	American Cinema since 1965	15	7.5
FILM3012:	Music in Film and Television	15	7.5
FILM3025:	International Film Industry: Issues and Debates	15	7.5
FILM3018:	Framing the Past: Stardom, History Heritage	15	7.5
FILM3009:	Science-Fiction Film after 1973	15	7.5
FILM3024:	Horror on Film	15	7.5
FILM3022:	Animation: Technology, Culture & Industry	15	7.5
FILM3027:	Television Studies: Key Debates	15	7.5
FILM3028:	Crime TV	15	7.5

Film sessions are timetabled in dedicated rooms equipped for film viewing. Screenings are usually scheduled in one of the Avenue lecture theatres and film teaching rooms are all located on the ground floor of Avenue. Avenue Campus also has its own small reference library, where students can watch key films on the equipment provided. The library can be reached by stairs or lift.

4 Progression Requirements

The programme of which this minor comprises a part follows the University's regulations for Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes as set out in the University Calendar. See:

<http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/progression-regs.html>

In order to qualify for the minor, students must pass all modules that make up the minor. There is no provision for students to be referred in a minor module solely for the purpose of qualifying for the minor.

[This text may be amended only in cases where UPC approval of exemption from University harmonised regulations has been granted.]

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor 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 on the minor website at:

<http://www.southampton.ac.uk/majorminor/minors.html>

Revision History

1. Created 7 August 2013, Veronica Spencer
2. Available modules amended, 3 March 2017, Kevin Donnelly
3. Available modules checked March 2018 CQA Team
4. Available modules amended, 19 March 2019, Shelley Cobb