

A level Film Studies

Why study Film Studies?

- A Level Film Studies is designed to broaden students' knowledge and understanding of film and the variety of responses films can generate.
- You will study a wide variety of films: in addition to British and American films (both mainstream and independent) you will also look at European and World cinema.
- Studies in documentary, silent film, experimental and short films will add to the breadth of your learning experience.
- Production work is a crucial part of this course, and you will be given the opportunity to apply your knowledge and understanding of how films are constructed through your own filmmaking and screenwriting.



Why study Film Studies at Solihull Sixth Form College?

- Excellent teaching – Film Studies was mentioned very positively in the last OFSTED report
- We are very well-resourced – for example we have a suite of I-Macs running Adobe Creative Suite plus a dedicated technician
- Many of our students go on to study Film and Media-related courses at University and after this progress to work within the Media and Film industries.

Case Study

Among the recent successful students to have taken this course is **Jed Rimell**.

He came to the College from Hall Green School to study Film Studies, Art, Psychology and AS History.

He achieved grade A in Film Studies and A and B grades in all his other subjects and has progressed to the University of Birmingham to read Philosophy.



“I was glad to finally study the subjects I specifically liked, because I did not have the opportunity to study Film or Psychology at school. I also found the staff really supportive and helpful, with both my subject and my uni application.”

- student Jed Rimell



Course Outline

There are two examined components:

Component 1: Varieties of Film and Filmmaking

Section A: Hollywood 1930-1990 – a comparative study of one film from the classical Hollywood period (eg Vertigo) and one from the 'New' Hollywood period (eg One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest)

Section B: American film since 2005: a study of one contemporary mainstream film (eg LaLaLand) and one contemporary Independent film (eg Winter's Bone)

Section C: British Film Since 1995: a study of two British films (eg Trainspotting and This is England)

Component 2: Global Filmmaking Perspectives

Section A: Global Film: a study of one European Film (eg Victoria) and one Film from outside Europe (eg City of God)

Section B: Documentary Film: study of one documentary such as 'Amy'

Section C: Film Movements – Silent Cinema. Study of the films of Buster Keaton

Section D: Film Movements – Experimental Film (1960-2000). Study of one film, for example 'Pulp Fiction'

The coursework component is Component 3: Production

Students produce either a short film (4-5 minutes) or a screenplay for a short film (1600-1800 words) plus a digitally photographed storyboard of a key section of the screenplay.

An evaluative analysis (1600-1800 words).

Assessment

Coursework (30%)

Examination (70%)

Examining Board – EDUQAS

Special Entry Requirements

Standard A level entry requirements apply - see www.solihullsfsc.ac.uk/courses/entry-requirements.

Prohibited Options

None.

What do our students go on to do?

Film Studies can help with analytical skills required in a range of professions. Students of this subject may choose to follow a course in a similar area at degree level. Typical career paths involve filmmaking, work within digital media and animation. Current A Level students are expecting to take up Film Studies courses with both practical and theoretical elements.

Cost Implications

There are no specific costs involved in studying A level Film Studies, but we offer trips that will require payment for transport.

Complementary Subjects or Enrichment Courses

Film Studies students take the subject with a range of other courses. Among the most popular are Media Studies, English literature, Theatre Studies and Photography, but the subject can be combined successfully with other A Levels.

Examination Results

In the past three years, there has been great success for students on this course, including consistent high pass rates. The full breakdown of results is as follows:

| Year | Entry | A* | A | B | C | D | E | U | A-E% |
|------|-------|----|---|---|----|---|---|---|--------|
| 2017 | 24 | 0 | 4 | 8 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 100.0% |
| 2018 | 15 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 100.0% |
| 2019 | 17 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 100.0% |

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