

FI106-15 Film History

24/25

Department

SCAPVC - Film & Television Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 1

Module leader

Stephen Gundle

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

60% coursework, 40% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

In this module you will study key moments and questions in the history of cinema. You will think about film texts within their broader industrial, cultural, social and political contexts and consider the different forms of historical work that they have inspired. The scope of this module is broad and you might find yourself considering cinema's place as a medium of mass entertainment, thinking about the ways in which cinema represents the past, exploring the history of race, class and gender representation, or thinking about the links between cinema and politics.

Module aims

The aim of the module is to study key moments and questions in the history of cinema, linking film texts to broader industrial, cultural, social and political contexts, and exploring the historiographical debates they have occasioned. Consideration will be given to two or more of the following themes: cinema as a medium of mass entertainment; cinema and politics; differences between Hollywood and other national cinemas; cinema and the representation of the past; gender, racial and class representation; approaches to the study of film history.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be

covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

WEEK 1: ITALIAN NEOREALISM

Screenings: Rome, Open City (Roberto Rossellini, 1945)/ Umberto D (Vittorio de Sica, 1952)

WEEK 2: FRENCH NEW WAVE

Screenings: Breathless (Jean-Luc Godard, 1961)/ Cleo from 5 to 7 (Agnes Varda, 1962)

WEEK 3: DIRECT CINEMA

Screening: Primary (Robert Drew, 1960) & Titicut Follies (Fredric Wiseman, 1967)

WEEK 4: CZECH NEW WAVE

Screening: Daisies (Věra Chytilová, 1966)

WEEK 5: CINEMA NOVO

Screening: Black God, White Devil (Glauber Rocha, 1963)

WEEK 6: READING AND VIEWING WEEK

WEEK 7: NEW GERMAN CINEMA

Screenings: Fear Eats the Soul (Rainer Werner Fassbinder, 1972)/ All that Heaven Allows (Douglas Sirk, 1955)

WEEK 8: TAIWAN NEW CINEMA

Screenings: Vive l'amour (Tsai Ming-liang, 1994)/ What Time Is It There? (Tsai Ming-liang, 2001)

WEEK 9: DOGMA 95

Screenings: Festen (Thomas Vinterberg, 1998)

WEEK 10: MEXICAN NEW CINEMA

Screening: Amores Perros (Alejandro González Iñárritu, 2000)

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Students will acquire introductory knowledge of the history of cinema and learn to analyse film texts in relation to the contexts in which they were produced, exhibited and understood. They will be introduced to film historiography and will explore the critical debates which have arisen around specific module texts.

Indicative reading list

ON NEW CINEMAS AND NEW WAVES

Catherine Russell (1995), Narrative Mortality: Death, Closure and New Wave Cinemas

Geoffrey Nowell-Smith (2008), Making Waves: New Cinemas of the 1960s

James Tweedie (2013), The Age of New Waves: Art Cinema and the Staging of Globalization

Peter Cowie (2004), Revolution!: The Explosion of World Cinema in the 60s

Sean Martin (2013), New Waves in Cinema

ON FILM HISTORIES

Aristides Gazetas (2008), An Introduction to World Cinema

Douglas Gomery and Robert C. Allen (1985) Film History: Theory and Practice

George Nowell-Smith (ed.) The Oxford History of World Cinema

Karl Schoonover & Rosalind Galt, eds. (2010), Global Art Cinema

Kristin Thompson & David Bordwell (2003) Film History: An Introduction.
Mark Cousins (2009) The Story of Film, esp. Chapter 7, pp. 266-327
James Chapman (2013) Film and History
Paul Grainge et al. (eds) (2011) Film Histories: An Introduction and Reader
Pam Cook (2007) The Cinema Book. London: BFI.
Robert Sklar (2002) A World History of Film., esp. Part V.
Robert A. Rosenstone (2006) History on Film/Film on History

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

Subject specific skills

This module develops skills of audio-visual literacy, through close textual and/or contextual analysis in relation to the moving image and sound. It may also develop understandings of historical, theoretical and conceptual frameworks relevant to screen arts and cultures.

Transferable skills

- critical and analytical thinking in relation
- independent research skills
- team work
- clarity and effectiveness of communication, oral and written
- accurate, concise and persuasive writing
- audio-visual literacy

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Other activity	36 hours (28%)
Private study	76 hours (58%)
Total	130 hours

Private study description

Reading and viewing in preparation for classes, and essay and exam preparation.

Other activity description

18 screenings (2 x 2 hours per week)

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group D1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Written Assignment	60%		Yes (extension)
Examination	40%		No
~Platforms - WAS			

- Online examination: No Answerbook required

Feedback on assessment

Departmental feedback sheet on essay; optional feedback tutorial

[Past exam papers for FI106](#)

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 1 of UFIA-W620 Undergraduate Film Studies
- Year 1 of UFIA-QW25 Undergraduate Film and Literature