

FI908-30 Advanced Methods in Screen Studies: Analysis, History, Theory

26/27

Department

SCAPVC – Film and Television Studies

Level

Taught Postgraduate Level

Module leader

Chris O'Rourke

Credit value

30

Module duration

9 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This core module aims to explore significant methodologies and conceptual frameworks which are central to the study of audio-visual media. The module will introduce aspects of textual analysis, historiography, and theoretical and conceptual paradigms, across film and television. The module provides a grounding in key concepts and methods, but it will also encourage an advanced level of reflection on the key areas addressed. It is taught through a combination of screenings, presentations, reading and discussion.

Module aims

The module aims to explore important methodologies and conceptual frameworks which are central to the study of audio-visual media. The module will address three main aspects, each usually taught over a three-week period: (i) textual analysis; (ii) historiography; (iii) theoretical paradigms. The module is intended to offer a grounding in key concepts and methods for MA students who have never studied film and television before, but it is also designed to stimulate an advanced level of reflection on the topics covered for students with an undergraduate qualification in the discipline. To suit the needs of both types of students, the module has a distinctive team-taught format, drawing on the range of expertise from academic staff in the department, who will

contribute to the teaching of topics that directly relate to their own research. The aim is thus to offer a broad range of coverage of key issues and methodologies in the field while also familiarising students with the specific strengths and distinctive features of the research culture in the department.

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.

It is expected that the the exploration of key methodologies and conceptual frameworks essential to the study of audio-visual media will be divided into the following three sections, each taught over a three week period. The specific topics are indicative and may vary, depending on the research interests of the module teaching team.

1. Textual Analysis
 - Week One - Mise-en-scène
 - Week Two - Space and time
 - Week Three - Televisuality
2. Historiography
 - Week Four - Film/television in historical context(s)
 - Week Five - Archival research in film history
 - Week Seven - Archival research in television history
3. Theoretical paradigms
 - Week Eight - Concepts of realism
 - Week Nine - Modernity/Postmodernity
 - Week Ten - Intermediality

Learning outcomes

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

- Undertake, and understand the methodological specificities of, close textual analysis of film and television texts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of how audio-visual texts can be interpreted with reference to historical contexts of production and reception
- Identify, locate and analyse archival documents relevant to the historical study of film and television
- Demonstrate understanding of a range of important conceptual paradigms central to current thinking in film and television studies, and make critical judgements on the validity and usefulness of particular theoretical approaches
- Articulate arguments about film and television texts with an enhanced ability to support them with precise and compelling evidence drawn from a range of sources

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

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
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Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (3%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 2 hours (6%)
Other activity	18 hours (6%)
Private study	255 hours (85%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

Wider viewing and reading, and research in preparation for assessment

Other activity description

9 supervised film/television screenings
The course may involve one visit to a specialist archive

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A2

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Portfolio 3 x 2000-word essays	100%		No
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Essay topics are designed by the module convenor and teaching team. Extensive written feedback is produced for each assignment. Tutorial sessions are also offered to further discuss feedback.

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 1 of TFIA-W5P1 Postgraduate Taught Film and Television Studies

This module is Core option list A for:

- Year 1 of TFIA-W5P1 Postgraduate Taught Film and Television Studies

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 1 of TPHA-V7PN Postgraduate Taught Philosophy and the Arts