

Title	Contemporary Cinema: Theories and Practice
Location in Course	Year Two Terms One, Two and Three
Credit Rating	40
Level of Study	5
Contact Hours	https://mycontacthours.arts.ac.uk/

Introduction

This unit examines how cinema has been transformed through the contemporary landscape of international media distribution and exhibition. We will discuss issues around the political economy of the film industries to consider the formation of audiences, issues around spectatorship and reception. The unit also addresses questions around how the text is both constructed and analysed drawing on a range of contemporary theories and concepts within film and cinema studies. The course will take you through these debates via a series of key theoretical texts and also close readings of film examples.

You will also have the opportunity to engage in a series of practical production-based workshops to create a short film, which draws on the major themes and debates covered in the unit.

Indicative Content

- Genre and narrative
- National cinemas and film movements
- Postcolonial cinemas
- Classical Hollywood and its alternatives
- Feminist film theories
- Spectatorship and audiences
- Psychoanalysis
- Historical materialism
- Poststructuralist and postmodernist film analysis
- Film realisms
- Surrealism and aesthetics
- Documentarism

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit you will be able to:

- Consolidate and extend the foundational introduction to creative and technical skills provided in year one (**Technical Competence**);
- Generate ideas, through the command of specialist knowledge and skills, to produce a short film (**Subject Knowledge; Research; Technical Competence**);
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the theoretical frameworks in cinema studies (**Subject Knowledge**);

- Be able to critically assess the relationship between the creative and technical skills involved in media production and theories of media and culture explored in the unit (**Analysis**)
- Be able to work collaboratively to produce a film for assessment (**Collaborative and/ or independent professional working**).

For more information about Learning Outcomes, go to **section 2.1: Course Aims and Outcomes** and **Marking criteria website (student version)**

<http://www.arts.ac.uk/media/arts/study-at-ual/academic-regulations/UG-Marking-Criteria-Matrix-with-Letter-Grades.pdf>

Assessment Requirements

The assessment for this unit is weighted. In element-based assessment, you must achieve at least an E grade in each element, and an aggregate grade of at least D- in the overall unit. Failure (F, or F-), or non-submission in any element defaults to Fail for the unit.

This is an elemental assessment comprising:

- 1 x 2,500 word theoretical essay (**40% weighting of unit mark**)
- 1 x Practice-based portfolio of work plus a 1,000 word evaluative report (**60% weighting of unit mark**)

For more information about how your assignments are marked, please go to **section 4.0: Assessment Strategy**, particularly holistic and element assessment. You will also receive an assignment brief, which will give you more detail.

Teaching and Learning Methods

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Screenings
- Practical Workshops
- Study Trips

Essential Reading

Hayward, S. (2012) Cinema Studies: Key Concepts. London: Routledge

Nelmes, J. (ed.) (2012) Introduction to Film Studies. London: Routledge

Frey, M. (2015) Film Criticism in the Digital Age. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press

Further Reading

Bradey, L and Cohen, M. (2016) Film Theory and Criticism: Introductory Readings. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Bordwell, D. and Thompson, K. (2012) Film Art: An Introduction (10th Edition). New York: McGraw-Hill Higher Education

Cook, P. (ed.) (2006) The Cinema Book (3rd Edition). London: BFI Publishing

Elsaesser, T. (2015) Film Theory: An Introduction through the Senses. London: Routledge

Kolker, R. (2015) Film, Form, and Culture: Fourth Edition. London: Routledge

Nowell-Smith, G. (2017) The History of Cinema: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions). Oxford: Oxford University Press

Thompson, K. (2017) Film History: An Introduction (4th Edition). New York: McGraw-Hill Higher Education

Wood, J. (2014) Last words: considering contemporary cinema. London: Wallflower Press

Marking Criteria

Marking criteria website (student version) <http://www.arts.ac.uk/media/arts/study-at-ual/academic-regulations/UG-Marking-Criteria-Matrix-with-Letter-Grades.pdf>

Using the Library

The Library Services web pages aim to provide quick access to a range of relevant high quality e-resources

<http://www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/library-services/>

Harvard Referencing

The Harvard Referencing Style on Cite Them Right Online is the standard for all UAL taught courses.

Cite Them Right Online can be accessed via the Library Services database A-Z list: <http://arts.ac.libguides.com/az.php>