



St. Wilfrid's
R.C. College

Film Studies

*Excellentia per fidem,
per scientiam, per adiuvatum*

Excellence through faith, learning and support

Curriculum Intent

Course Content and Key Skills

Film Studies students will leave St Wilfrid's RC College with an excellent understanding of a broad range of genres and directors. Students will also be confident applying critical knowledge and a range of theoretical debates to film texts.

Film Studies is a course for students who enjoy analysing and discussing texts. This course offers students the chance to examine what it means to be a spectator of film and to consider the range of methods employed by directors to create messages and meaning in films. Through the close analysis of mise en scene, cinematography, sound and other film methods, students will develop their understanding of a range of different genres and forms of film. This is an academic A Level that allows students to develop their knowledge around a familiar medium by considering how context, history and directorial intent can change our reading of a film. This is a thought provoking and challenging A Level which will see students examine a range of films from different genres, directors and different languages. Film Studies is an exciting opportunity for students to be creative as there is an NEA component to the course where students will work independently to create their own screenplay or produce their own short film.

Connections to Careers

As one of the largest growing industries globally and locally, Film Studies students will learn about the film and media industry. Visits to local independent cinemas, film studios and lectures from external speakers from different areas of the industry will prepare them for life beyond Sixth Form; equipping them with the knowledge and confidence to explore careers within the media and film industries.

Curriculum Sequence and Assessment

The Film Studies curriculum has been sequenced in order to build their knowledge and confidence analysing films, gradually introducing complex theoretical and critical debates. The specification we follow is heavily essay-based and as such, students are supported to write about films first singly, then in comparative essays.

Students will begin the course by learning how to analyse films and consider what it means to be a spectator. You will be introduced to the specific terminology used when analysing films and will learn what it means to be a film student, critic and part of an audience. Students will develop their understanding of the global film market and the differences between industries around the world. As the course develops, students will examine the difference between independent and mainstream films, classic British and American films, the history of the film industry, movements such as German Expressionism as well as the typical features of experimental films alongside other film forms like documentary.

Assessment will take the form of essays and practice examinations. Homework will be varied; a combination of creative tasks to support NEA production, research and also essays.

	Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3
Year 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Film Studies • Film terminology- Mise en Scene • British Film 1- <i>Shaun of the Dead</i>- Narrative and Ideology • Global film- <i>Pan's Labyrinth</i>- Core study areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Film 2- <i>Trainspotting/Fish Tank</i> • Documentary Theory- <i>Amy- filmmaker's theories</i> • Global Film 2- <i>City of God</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Film Since 2005 1- <i>La La Land</i> – Ideology plus core study areas • NEA Begins • Hollywood- <i>Vertigo- Auteur</i>

	Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3
Year 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEA Continues • American Film Since 2005 2- <i>Captain Fantastic</i>- Core study areas plus spectatorship and ideology • Hollywood 2- <i>One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest</i> – Auteur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Film Movements-Silent Cinema- <i>Sunrise- critical debates</i> • NEA submitted to Examining Board • Experimental Film- <i>Memento- auteur plus narrative</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External examinations take place

Course: WJEC/ Eduqas Film Studies A Level

Component 1: Varieties of film and filmmaking

Written examination: 2½ hours

35% of qualification

This component assesses knowledge and understanding of **six** feature-length films.

Section A: Hollywood 1930-1990 (comparative study)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to two Hollywood films, one from the Classical Hollywood period (1930-1960) and the other from the New Hollywood period (1961-1990).

Section B: American film since 2005 /2012 (two-film study)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to **two** American films, one mainstream film and one contemporary independent film.

Section C: British film since 1995 (two-film study)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to **two** British films.

Component 2: Global filmmaking perspectives

Written examination: 2½ hours

35% of qualification

This component assesses knowledge and understanding of **five** feature-length films (or their equivalent).

Section A: Global film (two-film study)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to **two** global films: **one** European and **one** produced outside Europe.

Section B: Documentary film

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to **one** documentary film.

Section C: Film movements – Silent cinema

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to **one** silent film or group of films.

Section D: Film movements – Experimental film (1960-2001)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to **one** film option.

Component 3: Production

Non-exam assessment

30% of qualification

This component assesses **one** production and its evaluative analysis. Learners 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 from the screenplay
- an evaluative analysis (**1600 - 1800 words**).