

‘The Aspiring Film Studies Scholar’ KS4/5



**CHELTENHAM
BOURNSIDE
SCHOOL**

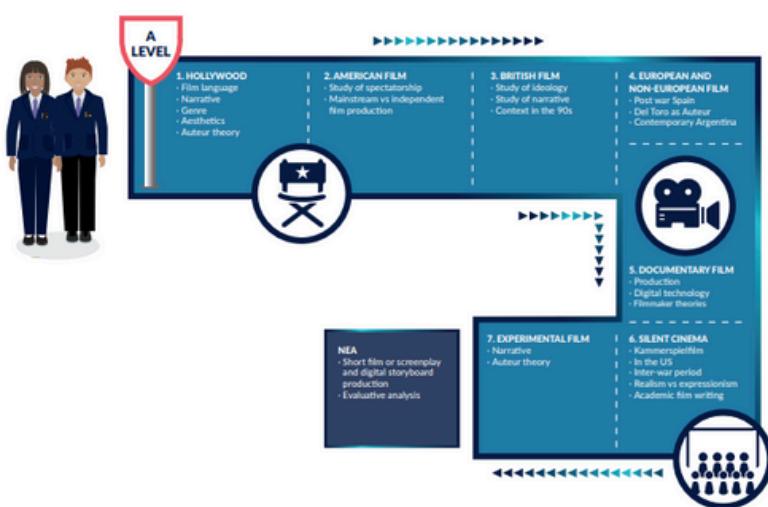


Inspiring lives through learning

'The Aspiring Film Studies Scholar'



FILM STUDIES



'The Aspiring Film Studies Scholar'



You're on this page because you love film. You'll have favourite films, your own tastes and your own understanding of what makes a film entertaining, or thought provoking, or truly great.

There is a canon of "films you must see". You know you aren't going to enjoy all of them...but you will understand that each of them will expand your frame of reference – allow you the joy of sharing your thoughts and, by sharing, understand a little better.

Film at Bournside is all about appreciation, understanding and application. You will make a film sequence as part of the course, but the best students will have got ahead of the curve on this and practised their own film-making.

We use DaVinci Resolve to edit – it's an amazing free resource supported by a wealth of tutorials on YouTube.

Make your own films. Make mistakes. Watch films with new-found understanding and apply it to both analysis and practical work.

"Watch a few movies, take a few notes. It was fun." Stu Macher, 'Scream' (Craven, 1996)

Mr Watts
Head of Film and Media

Reading list



Film Studies An Introduction - Warren Buckland

Provides an overview of the key areas in film studies, including aesthetics, narrative, genre, documentary films and the secrets of film reviewing. ISBN 978147360879-5

Essential Revision for A Level Film Studies - Mark Dixon

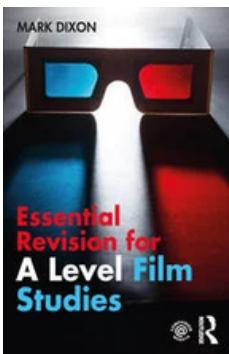
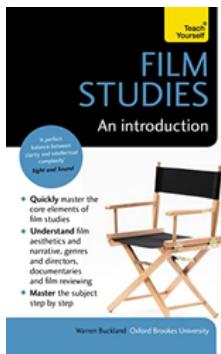
This comprehensive revision guide contains everything students need to know to succeed on their A Level Film Studies course.

ISBN 9780367634490

The Film Genre Book - John Sanders

A comprehensive introduction to film history, The Film Genre Book allows the reader to create their own narrative of film through history by focusing on seven genres, highlighting a key film from each genre over a ninety-year period—sixty-three films discussed in detail.

ISBN 1903663903



Competitions



The Eduqas/WJEC Moving Image Awards

The Moving Image Awards, which launched in 2014 in collaboration with the British Film Institute, recognises and celebrates the best moving image productions from students undertaking WJEC Eduqas qualifications in Film and Media across the UK. The 2025 categories included Short Film, Music Video, Screenplay, Film/TV Extract, Animation, One to Watch and the Student Jury Prize.



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FilmCheltAcademy

FilmCheltAcademy work closely with Bournside and other Cheltenham schools, along with the University of Gloucestershire and the Cheltenham Education Partnership, to provide opportunities for young film makers to attend workshops and masterclasses with film professionals from a range of disciplines within the industry. Through these sessions students learn from current filmmakers, gaining skills to help them to forge careers in the film industry.

A number of specially selected films produced by students studying film making and media are screened as part of the Cheltenham Film Festival each October.

Listen and Watch



Podcasts



The Empire Film Podcast

Really useful free podcast with interviews and features on new films, along with retrospectives of influential works from the past. It's funny, too!



Kermode and Mayo's Take

Short-form reviews of biggest films by the most influential (perhaps) reviewer in the UK.



The Rest is Entertainment

Richard Osman & Marina Hyde go into the deeper cultural relevance of TV, movies, and pop culture.



The Film Programme

It's BBC, so we need to support it! Wide-ranging and interesting, search out an episode on a film that you love and you'll love it even more.

Listen and Watch



Films/YouTube/TV



Watch and re-watch the set films! Watch films related to the set films!

Classical versus New Hollywood

- Casablanca (1942), (plus The Maltese Falcon, The Wizard of Oz, Citizen Kane)
- Night of the Living Dead (Romero, 1968), (plus Bonnie and Clyde (Penn), Breathless (Godard), Psycho (Hitchcock))



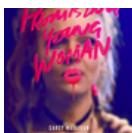
The Golden Age of Hollywood: Crash Course Film History #11

1942: Casablanca - America's Greatest Propaganda Film

Night of the Living Dead essay

American film since 2012

Joker (Phillips, 2019), 15 (plus King of Comedy and with warning for upsetting content, Taxi Driver by Scorsese, plus The Dark Knight (Nolan) Batman (Burton))



Promising Young Woman (Fennell, 2020), 15 (plus Saltburn and Wuthering Heights if it gets released!)

Lots on Joker – you'll find very different responses from a spectatorship point of view

Promising Young Woman, Explained - Look In the Mirror

British film since 1995

Shaun of the Dead (Wright, 2004), (plus Hot Fuzz, Dawn of the Dead (2004, Snyder),
Saint Maud (Glass, 2019), 15 (plus Love Lies Bleeding)



How Shaun of The Dead Explores Growth - An In-Depth Analysis - Youtube

Saint Maud's ending is a masterpiece - Youtube



Global Film

- Pan's Labyrinth (Del Toro, Spain, 2006), (plus Hellboy, Shape of Water)
- Parasite (Bong Joon-Ho, South Korea, 2019), (plus Snowpiercer)

Listen and Watch



Films/YouTube/TV



[Pan's Labyrinth: Disobedient Fairy Tale](#) - YouTube

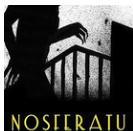
Thomas Flight - YouTube - Subscribe to this guy - Parasite is so rich, so perfect that there is an enormous amount written about it. Use these!



Documentary

Stories We Tell (Polley, Canada, 2012), (plus your choice of documentaries, but **King of Kong** is highly recommended)

[AL Film Studies Stories We Tell Analysis of 'The Reveal'](#)



Film movements - Silent cinema

- **Sunrise** (Murnau, US, 1927)
- **Nosferatu** (Murnau)
- **Cabinet of Doctor Caligari** (Weine)

Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau | Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans | 1927



[The Art Movement That Changed Film Forever](#)

[sunrise murnau](#) - YouTube

Film movements - Experimental film (1960-2001)

Mulholland Drive (Lynch, US, 2001), (plus **Blue Velvet**)

There is SO MUCH on Lynch, lots of it contradictory. Try this 'Mulholland Drive' Is The Greatest Film Of The 21st Century



Short Films

You need to watch a range of shorts as part of the course, but your own examples will form an essential part of your NEA work in terms of references. Watch lots of shorts, work out what appeals to you and consider how you might use some of the technique you're observing in your own film.

[NITVShorts](#) - YouTube - This is a channel featuring some excellent short films

Listen and Watch



Films/YouTube/TV



Horror Short Film “The Smiling Man” | ALTER

The short medium really lends itself to horror (indeed, any twist ending narrative is perfect for shorts). There are some great films on here, but be advised that the channel curates constantly updating content from youtubers, so there might be some difficult subject matter.



WJEC moving image awards - YouTube

Your NEA film work has to be between four and five minutes long. There are some great examples of student work here.

Tutorials on DaVinci and film form

DaVinci Resolve Beginners Tutorial 2025: Edit like a PRO for FREE! This is one of absolutely hundreds of videos. If your laptop/pc will run DaVinci then using these is the best way to develop your skills beyond those allowed within the constraints of lesson time.



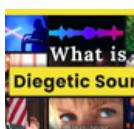
NEW to DaVinci Resolve? Color Grading - Tutorial

This is the key skill that differentiates top-grade students. This requires a lot of time and patience to get right, but makes the world of difference to the quality of finished films.

Introduction to EDITING THEORY | Continuity Editing, Montage, the Rule of Six, and MORE! Editing is key to understanding the unique nature of film language, we'll concentrate on this in class.



This is How You Practice Cinematography (All By Yourself) some really useful examples of “making the ordinary extraordinary” by making use of the camera’s eye rather than the way we perceive the world from our own eyes.



Ultimate Guide to Diegetic vs Non-Diegetic Sound

Definitions, Examples, & How to Break the Rules Studio Binder has some excellent videos, this is great!



What is Mise en Scene – How Directors Like Kubrick Master the Elements of Visual Storytelling

Like this one!

Listen and Watch



Social media

Empire (@empiremagazine) / X

Articles and interviews

Empire Magazine (empiremagazine) Profile | Pinterest

Lots of inspiration here

Film Cheltenham (@filmcheltenham)

Instagram photos and videos, your local film festival and it's getting bigger every year

Mark Dixon (@markdixonmedia) / X

This guy knows his Film stuff

BFI (@britishfilminstitute)

Instagram photos and videos – the body that looks after film in the UK and administers lottery money to fund film-making

Sight and Sound magazine (@SightSoundmag) / X

The leading academic film magazine in the UK, but it's still fun!

Work Experience and Events



You will probably know that Bristol and Cardiff are important hubs for television and film, but you might be less familiar with the number of smaller, independent production companies in and around Cheltenham.

It is difficult to get work experience with smaller companies, but do be encouraged that production jobs are out there! Students do get work experience, however, with a Film student being able to apply her editing skills on a recent placement as the company used DaVinci!

Work Experience and Events



Work Experience - Young Film Academy

Film/admin work experience internships are periodically available at Young Film Academy / Magma Group, which includes our sister film production company Magma Pictures



Work experience and mentoring opportunities - ITV

Careers Our work experience and mentoring opportunities are a great way to get a feel for what it's really like to work in TV production.



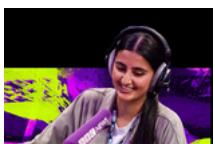
TV & Film Work Experience | Springpod

This programme has it all, you'll get the chance to direct a short film, take part in quizzes that put your knowledge to the test and hear from industry professionals, like film critics and heads of production.



Extra People

Extra People is a background casting agency for the UK film & television industry. We provide supporting artistes for background and walk-on roles nationwide



Get In Taster Experiences | BBC Early Careers

'GET IN' TASTER EXPERIENCES offer you the chance to explore the different career paths the BBC has to offer and to find out if our organisation is somewhere you'd like to work in the future.



The Careers Team at Bournside deliver regular Inspire Breakfast Lectures. Open to students in Year 10 - 13, these business-focused breakfasts invite speakers from all corners of industry to share their professional experiences and valuable insights with Bournside students over breakfast; opening our eyes to the opportunities available across many industry sectors.

[Take a look at upcoming speakers and reserve your space here.](#)



