

2018-2019

British Film

Category: Film Studies

Code: **IS 099**

Level: **5**

Credits: **15**

Teaching Pattern

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Seminar	2 x 3hrs	2 x 4hrs	2 x 4hrs	2 x 3hrs
Film			1 x 4hrs	

*you will be expected to do approximately 118 hours of independent study over the 4 weeks.

**Additional Field Trip fee of £15.00*

Outline

What makes a British film? What is the magic ingredient that transforms it to the level of world cinema? Films perennially in the top 10, like *Brief Encounter*, filmmakers such as Powell and Pressburger and Alfred Hitchcock, Ealing comedies, Romcoms like *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, British Documentaries, the *Monty Python* films, the *Harry Potter & James Bond* series, *Slumdog Millionaire*, *Shaun of the Dead*, *This is England*, *Fish Tank*, *The King's Speech*, *Twelve Years A Slave*, *Baby Driver*, *God's Own Country*, *Dunkirk*, *Blade Runner 2049*, *Paddington*, *3 Billboards outside Ebbing*, *The Favourite*, *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *A Very English Scandal*, have attracted awards and international attention. They have made British actors, writers and directors and special effects studios, bankable and Hollywood 'must haves'. We will explore behind the scenes, and you will do presentations on, acting, soundtrack, cinematography, and editing. You will write your own movie critiques, learn to pitch an idea, write a page of screenplay, attend Industry-led Master Classes. These elements will become part of your unique record of your 'Lights, Camera, Action' experience at Sussex.

Seminar 1 Tues 18 July 2-5pm

Introduction – who you are, what you hope from the course, what British films you like and why. Brief overview of British film.

Seminar 2 Wed 19 July 2-5pm

The Very British Film -

Brief Encounter few films have equalled the compassion and realism of this 'very English picture' that is 'remembered with affection by almost everybody'.

Ealing Comedies a look at one of the most celebrated genres in British Cinema

Homework: Begin keeping Film Learning Diary/scrapbook which will become part of your assessed portfolio.
Write critique of screened film
Research British Film directors etc., ready to give oral illustrated presentation with partner next Session

Seminar 3 Tues 25 July 1pm
followed by Trip to special event at The Cinema Museum, London

Oral presentations on film directors etc.
Types & genres of British film
Tutorials (on the train!)
Travel details to follow, come to seminar with everything you need for the trip.

Seminar 4 Wed 26 July 1-5pm

1pm Tutorials

2pm Animation Masterclass led by the award winning Animator, Leo Crane - producer, director, and founder of the London Animation Studio. He will explore the history of animation and its current place in film and beyond, from blockbuster film and games to experimental independent productions.

Homework: Continue diary & film critiques
Look at a published screenplay
Write one page of dialogue for a film

Monday 31st July time to tbc

Class visit to Britain's oldest continually running cinema The Duke of York's in Brighton
you will hear the history, visit the projection room, & see the brand new Christopher Nolan film DUNKIRK starring Kenneth Branagh, Tom Hardy, Mark Rylance, Harry Styles.

Seminar 5 Tues 1 Aug 1-5pm

1pm Tutorials
2pm Read dialogues
Oral presentations
The art of pitching

Seminar 6 Wed 2 Aug 1-5pm

1pm Tutorials
2pm British Film in the raw:

This is England
Fish Tank

Homework: Continue diary & film critiques
Prepare one-minute pitch for a film idea

Seminar 7 Tues 8 Aug 2-5pm

The British documentary – masterclass led by Adam Lavis of Animal Monday

Seminar 8 Weds 9 Aug 2-5pm

Pitches
What Is British Cinema?

Assessed written work to be submitted to office by 4pm Thurs 10 Aug

2,500 word learning diary or equivalent	70%
Oral presentations	20%
Tutor's report	10%

NB THIS IS A DRAFT SYLLABUS & SOME DATES OR DETAILS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module students will be able to;

- Write astute and intellectually coherent critiques of films
- Understand and analyse the production process and the work of the top British film directors, cinematographers, editors, sound track and special effects artists.
- Be able to write a page of screen dialogue.
- Have acquired research, presentational, and communication skills, including the transferrable skill of pitching an idea or a project.

Contacts

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SOME RECOMMENDED BRITISH FILMS for a variety of tastes!

Collections

EALING COMEDIES
HAMMER HORROR
HARRY POTTER
JAMES BOND
DAVID LEAN
ALFRED HITCHCOCK
MERCHANT IVORY
POWELL & PRESSBURGER
MONTY PYTHON
STAR WARS

Individual Films

FISH TANK
BRIEF ENCOUNTER
THIS IS ENGLAND
THE THIRD MAN
WITH NAIL & I
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE
BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM
SECRETS & LIES
THE WICKER MAN
IF
THE SERVANT
BRONSON
NEVER LET ME GO
MADE IN DAGENHAM
LES MISERABLES
BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL
GRAVITY
TWELVE YEARS A SLAVE
SPECTRE
MACBETH
BROOKLYN
CAROL
THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING
SEAN OF THE DEAD
SLOW WEST
45 YEARS
AMY
HIGH RISE
SIGHTSEERS
DOWN TERRACE
THE DOUBLE
PHILOMENA

THE FAVOURITE
BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

British Film is thriving & I could add dozens more which I look forward to you discovering

Core Reading List

John Walker ed, *Halliwel's Film, Video and DVD Guide*, Harper Collins, London

Charles Barr & Stephen Frears, *Typically British: A Short History of the Cinema in Britain*, BFI Publishers, 1996

Robert McKee, *Story*, Methuen, London, 1999

Robert Murphy ed, *The British Cinema Book*, 3rd edition, Palgrave Macmillan/BFI, London, 2009

Emma Bell & Neil Mitchell ed, *Directory of World Cinema, Britain*, Intellect Books, Bristol, 2012

Melanie Bell & Melanie Williams ed, *British Women's Cinema*, Routledge, London, 2010

Website: www.britfilms.com

David Fisher, *Cinema-by-Sea*, Terra Media, 2012

University Library

The Library,
University of Sussex,
Brighton

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