

# A Level Film Studies



## Why this subject?

We are about to experience a whole new era of film student –one more informed, experienced, and practised than those that have gone before. The last twelve months has made every-one a critic, a more discerning viewer, with an appetite for volume as well as quality in the films they both consume and judge. If 2020 has taught us one thing – it is the endurance and desire to know the story of another – from an exotic zoo keeper, to a crazed president, to a nurse on the front line to a serial killer on a mission. Narratives, both fictional, non-fictional and all that lies in between, has raised the status of the production of film; now is the time to be a part of that 2021 production revolution and join its ranks. This course will teach you that to make a film is to express oneself; not just by effectively storytelling, but also unwittingly, in the choice of your cast, locations, shot types. It is in these micro-elements of film that a person's true values, morals, prejudices, assumptions, and even politics can be exposed. This is why you will find film so fascinating; in telling one story, a film-maker often reveals their own.

## Course Outline

Over the two years you will study just 11 films which makes up 70% of the course. The remaining 30% consists of creating a short film through your own practical work. We will do a comparative study of the classical Hollywood period and one from the New Hollywood period; 'Vertigo', directed by the legendary filmmaker Alfred Hitchcock and then one of the most influential Science Fiction films: Ridley Scott's 'Blade Runner'.

You will be broadening your understanding of American film by looking at the wonderful Coen brothers' movie 'No Country For Old Men' before taking in an example of independent film through the touching and critically acclaimed film, 'Captain Fantastic.' You will also study the phenomenal world of British film: Danny Boyle's 'Trainspotting' and 'Shaun of the Dead' directed by Edgar Wright.

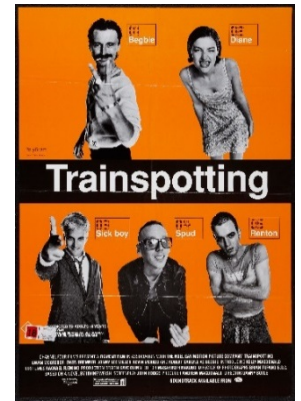
You will study beyond mainstream film including world cinema; 'Victoria' – an astonishing masterpiece of technical brilliance (you'll see – no spoilers!) and then the raw and unforgettable Brazilian film 'City of God'. Partly due to the rise of Netflix, Documentary film is becoming very popular; you will be studying 'Amy', an original documentary film on the life of the singer Amy Winehouse.

We will look at the origins or early cinema and study the silent movie 'Sunrise' – some argue the greatest movie of all time. The final film in our list of 11 is the sublime 'Pulp Fiction'. With its quotable movie lines, inventive narrative and a more than healthy splash of 'cool', this Quentin Tarantino film will be studied as an example of 'Experimental Film'.

*Please visit our own 'Churchdown Media hub' which is an online platform created by us detailing the course content*

[www.churchdownmediahub2.com](http://www.churchdownmediahub2.com)

Password - churchdownmediahub



## Key Information

Exam Board	Eduqas
Qualification Type	A Level
Entry Requirements	Applied A Level Pathway.
Head of Department	Mr Edwards

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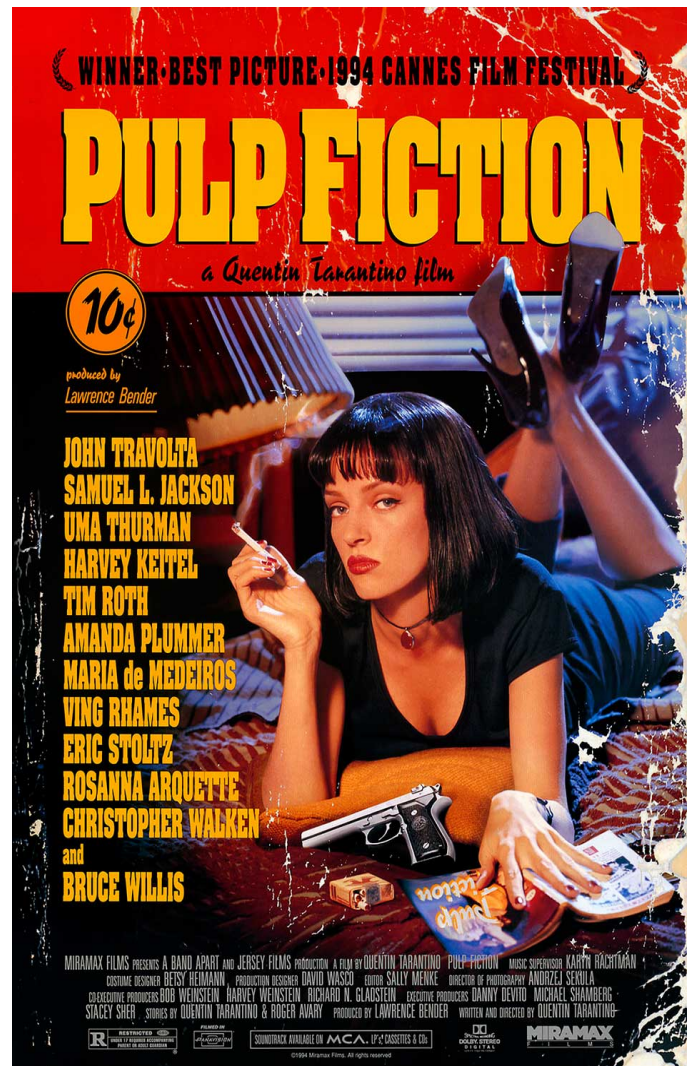
## Assessment Outline

Students of Film A Level are assessed on their ability to apply knowledge and understanding of elements of film. Students are required to:

- analyse and compare films, including via the use of critical approaches
- evaluate the significance of critical approaches

These skills are assessed via two different examinations and make up 70% of a student's final grade. Each exam is 2 hours and 30 minutes long.

The final 30% of the course requires students to apply their knowledge and understanding of elements of film to produce their own short film. They will then be required to write a short analysis and evaluation of their work in relation to other professionally produced short films.



## Careers and next steps

The film industry in the UK continues to generate significant value for the UK economy. Its direct contribution to UK Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was £6.1 billion, and it exported over £2.6 billion worth of services. The global theatrical market, which hit a new record in 2019, was worth just over \$42 billion with UK films earning \$10.3 billion, or a 24.6% share. All over the world, British film makers are respected and adored. In 2019 film production in the UK generated a total spend of £1.95 billion, a 17% increase on the previous year's £1.84 billion. This will only continue to increase, and the job market expand, as the importance of film is now globally recognised in helping keep the mental health and stability of a nation intact. However, even if you just love film but do not fancy a career in it, A Level Film is a highly respected qualification which will be recognised in any college or university.

