

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

for the award of

MA Film Studies: Popular Cinema

Managed by the Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment

delivered by School of Arts

Date approved:	Date approval confirmed, on recommendation of University validation panel or other authorised body.
Applies to students commencing study in:	September 2018

RECORD OF UPDATES

Date amended*	Nature of amendment**	Reason for amendment**
July 2016	Transferred to new template, update graduate attribute from global to active citizenship	CMA Compliance, Update to graduate attribute
October 2016	Checked for errors and amended by Film Subject Coordinator and Programme Lead.	Subject specialist knowledge.

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Awarding body:	Oxford Brookes University
Teaching institution and location:	Oxford Brookes University, Headington Campus
Language of study:	English
Final award:	MA
Programme title:	Film Studies: Popular Cinema
Interim exit awards and award titles available:	PG Certificate; PG Diploma
Brookes course code:	VA51 - MA-FPC/PGD-FPC/PGC-FPC
UCAS code:	P037033
JACS code:	P303
HECoS code:	100058
Mode of delivery:	Full-time (face to face/on-campus) Part-time (face to face/on-campus)
Mode/s and duration of study:	1 year full-time 2 years part-time (up to five years)
QAA subject benchmark statement/s which apply to the programme:	NA
Professional accreditation attached to the programme:	NA
University Regulations:	The programme conforms to the University Regulations for the year of entry as published/archived at: http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/

SECTION 2: WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?

The MA in film Studies: Popular Cinema at Oxford Brookes offers a unique combination of modules devoted to the history and theory of popular cinemas (Hollywood, European, East Asian) plus modules on screenwriting and the current shape of the film industry. Students are encouraged to develop a broad portfolio of writing and research skills by combining academic and professional writing projects. The MA in Film Studies: Popular Cinema is taught by a team of active film researchers with different national and cultural backgrounds, and will equip you for a career in academia as well as the media industry. Teaching is centered around film screenings, seminars, and individual tutorials and, in the case of Story Development, intensive writing workshops.

In the MA in Film Studies: Popular Cinema students are encouraged to develop a broad knowledge and understanding of popular cinema, and acquire a portfolio of academic and professional writing and research skills.

Please refer to the following link to view the staff profiles within the School of Arts:

<http://arts.brookes.ac.uk/staff/index.html>

SECTION 3: PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the programme, graduates will demonstrate the following Brookes Attributes:

3.1 ACADEMIC LITERACY

A substantial and critically informed knowledge and understanding of the history and theory of popular cinemas.

An ability to evaluate the variety of approaches to film, identifying stylistics and thematic concerns of different genres and their value in the context of Popular Cinema.

An understanding of the principles of screenplay, classical film storytelling and narrative strategies used by scriptwriters.

Initiative and independence in scriptwriting/reading/editing and film criticism practice.

An ability to interpret the different varieties of popular films in their specific cultural, historic, and economic contexts.

An ability to write/read/edit scripts to a professional and publishable standard.

An ability to use the acquired knowledge in tasks such as scriptwriting or fiction writing at a professional level.

3.2 RESEARCH LITERACY

An ability to create and sustain an argument that is based on a broad-based disciplinary knowledge.

An ability to write up research in the form of essays, reports, and dissertation.

An ability to critique primary and secondary source material, and learn to develop and defend their own scholarly argument in oral presentations, using audio-visual aids where appropriate, and answering questions from an audience.

The ability to select and apply appropriate methodologies and theories.

The ability to develop advanced written and verbal communication skills.

The ability to plan a project and meet a deadline.

The ability to demonstrate professional referencing of sources and self-management of an advanced research project (dissertation).

The ability to conduct independent research and present their ideas in a clear and structured fashion.

3.3 CRITICAL SELF-AWARENESS AND PERSONAL LITERACY

A historically-informed sensibility that will enhance their engagement with issues of Cinema.

The ability to communicate ideas persuasively and appropriately in writing in the distinct registers of the discursive essay.

The ability to engage in class-room debate, demonstrating an ability to produce critical and creative reflection on a specific topic.

3.4 DIGITAL AND INFORMATION LITERACY

The ability to acquire and use media and IT skills (screen writing software; image capture technology).

3.5 ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

An understanding of the relationship between the aesthetic qualities of films and the cultural and economic context that determined their creation.

SECTION 4: CURRICULUM CONTENT & STRUCTURE

4.1 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS:

Code	Module Title	Credits	Level	Status	Coursework: Exam ratio
P64008/ FILM7007	Narration in Classical Hollywood Cinema	40	7	Compulsory	100% CW
P64002/ FILM7001	Research Methods in Film	40	7	Compulsory	100% CW
P64099/ FILM7008	Dissertation	60	7	Compulsory	100% CW
P64003/ FILM7002	Popular European Cinema	20	7	Recommended	100% CW
P64004/ FILM7003	Professional Film Cultures	20	7	Recommended	100% CW
P64005/ FILM7004	Story Development	20	7	Recommended	100% CW
P64006/ FILM7005	Popular Cinema in East Asia	20	7	Recommended	100% CW
P64007/ FILM7006	Independent Study	20	7	Recommended	100% CW

4.2 PROGRESSION AND AWARD REQUIREMENTS

The Compulsory modules for the MA (180 credits) & PG Diploma (120 credits) are:

P64008/FILM7007, P64002/FILM7001

The Compulsory module for the MA is: P64099/FILM7008

The Alternative Compulsory modules for the MA & PG Diploma are:

2 modules from: P64003/FILM7002, P64004/FILM7003, P64005/FILM7004, P64006/FILM7005, P64007/FILM7006

The Alternative Compulsory module for PG Certificate (60 credits) is:

1 module from: P64003/FILM7002, P64004/FILM7003, P64005/FILM7004, P64006/FILM7005, P64007/FILM7006

4.3 PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Updated May 2016

None.

SECTION 5: TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

The Film Studies MA programme is designed to develop five core 'Postgraduate Attributes'. Film students' academic literacy is enhanced through the study of film aesthetics, history and theory of popular cinema, and by encouraging a critical approach to the disciplinary discourse. Research and information literacy are vital skills which are strengthened and enhanced so that students are able to design independent research projects by the summer term (e.g. a dissertation). Students also improve their levels of critical self-awareness or 'personal literacy'. The MA in Film Studies places great emphasis upon the personal development and transformation of each student's comprehension and understanding of audio visual culture – in this instance, popular cinema. The emphasis is placed on deep learning, which is taught through a series of intense lectures and seminars, and is further nurtured via individual student presentations. The MA programme has an international approach with modules focussing on a range of national cinemas and taught by staff with diverse histories and research interests.

The School of Arts has a student-centred approach to teaching. Student-centredness is reflected in the approach adopted to classroom teaching, which uses a variety of teaching and learning methods to suit the varying needs of both students and course content. While some students excel in interactive small group work, others benefit most from lectures followed by structured feedback exercises, seminars, and student presentations. The content of each module has a bearing on the teaching and learning methods adopted. Most of our modules will rely on a combination of lectures and classroom discussion. Teaching groups vary in size between different methods. In addition to participating in scheduled learning and teaching activities, students are expected to study independently. As there is a strong emphasis on independent study, the programme combines scheduled activities with private or personal study time. Independent study is an important aspect of the course and ranges from activities such as library research, reading and essay writing, to the use of equipment and e-learning exercises.

Deep learning is also nurtured via the Brookes Assessment Compact, which encourages students to view feedback as a valuable and active process, an ongoing dialogue that involves comments from staff but also encourages students to take responsibility for critiquing and revising their own work – sometimes several times – before submitting it for final assessment. Students receive oral and written feedback on early drafts, and also receive peer feedback when presenting their work to their fellow students.

Contact time for a module generally include 24 hours sessions (a combination of lectures and seminars) as well as feedback on assessment (either in class as a group or in individual sessions with the module leader) The contact time is formally scheduled in case of lectures (where the academic staff present and talk about a particular topic), seminars (a discussion or classroom session focusing on a particular topic or project.) or tutorials (a meeting involving one-to-one or small group supervision, feedback or detailed discussion on a particular topic or project). Contact time is also available in project supervision (for example in the Independent Study module or in the Dissertation), or in external visit (a visit to a location outside of the usual learning spaces, for instance a trip to the Berlin or the London Film Festival to experience an exhibition relevant to the course of study). Moreover contact time is also available in a non-schedule format, when students feel the need to discuss a certain topic with an academic member of staff and can do this during office hours or by booking an appointment with the lecturers.

Students meet lecturers on a regular basis for individual tutorials to discuss their work on the modules and their progress. For the MA dissertation, students meet up regularly with their supervisor, and receive feedback on each dissertation chapter. The student's detailed plan for their dissertation (3-4 pages) is worked out in the Research Methods seminars.

Assessment methods vary depending on the module content. Theoretical modules use written reports and essays; individual or group presentations and in-class tests. Many modules draw on the cycle of formative assessment and feedback outlined in the Brookes Assessment Compact. For example students often submit research or project proposals and receive constructive feedback prior to the final assessment. Holding exams for a postgraduate degree in the arts is not an appropriate form of assessment, and is therefore not employed on the MA in Film Studies.

SECTION 6: ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME

6.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should normally hold a good honours degree (2.1 or above), or its equivalent, in an Arts and Humanities subject or similar discipline. Previous study of film is desirable but not essential. See the university's general entry requirements: <http://www.brookes.ac.uk/studying-at-brookes/how-to-apply/entry-requirements/postgraduate-courses/>

For students whose first language is not English: IELTS 6.0-7.0 (normally with 6.0 in reading and writing and a minimum of 5.5 in listening and speaking). See the university's general English language requirements: <http://www.brookes.ac.uk/international/applying-to-arriving/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>

SECTION 7: PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

MA film students are well-prepared for the workplace. Graduates have found work in:

- Publishing (e.g. Oxford University Press)
- Teaching in further and higher education
- Journalism
- Postgraduate Study
- Cinema management (e.g. The Phoenix, Oxford).
- Festivals and arts events management
- Marketing and PR

Each module invites visiting speakers from both academia and employers to give presentations. Furthermore, the Film Studies department has set up an Advisory Board, a team of media professionals who provide expert guidance on what the industry expects from Film Studies graduates as well as contributing to our varied teaching programme.