



Film Studies – Hollywood Classical and New



West Kirby
Grammar School

Learning about this topic is important because: you should understand the origins of Hollywood and the studio system and its production context in relation to New Hollywood and independent American film. You will consider the focus films and their directors and producers in relation to auteur theory.

This builds on: study of micro and macro structures in the introductory unit and understanding of British vs Hollywood cinema

This leads to: understanding World Cinema contexts; further development of close analytical skill; application of film concepts and theory

We will learn:

- the connotations of visual elements and sounds
- binary oppositions, both those contained in the narrative and those contained in film's use of formal elements
- the implications of spectator positioning and address
- an evaluation of the relevance of auteur theory.
- narrative construction and devices

We will develop/practise skills including:

- oracy and performance skills including debating and presenting talks
- reading film texts analytically including the application and evaluation of film language
- writing extended and informed personal responses
- responding critically and appropriately to (exam) questions

Some of the vocabulary that we will use includes:

Auteur theory, binary opposition, narrative theory, censorship, representation, ALL film language, BFI

You could learn more about this topic by:

Researching key facts on IMDB
Bonus material on DVDs
YouTube clips, interviews
Watch other films linked to auteur and studio system.



Your teacher will assess your knowledge & understanding throughout the topic by looking at your work, questioning, discussion and giving you feedback in lots of different ways. The key pieces of work in this topic are:

- extended writing to analyse key scenes
- planning exam responses
- a formal exam essay response
- timed essay response



Film Studies – NEA



West Kirby
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Learning about this topic is important because: Film production is a key skill in the study of Film Studies. You will be able to apply your broad knowledge of film form to create your own short film/ screenplay and story board

This builds on: study of micro and macro structures; understanding of film texts in context; study of genre, narrative and key conventions;

This leads to: the study of Paper 2 – Global Film making perspectives

We will learn:

- The conventions of Screenplay writing
- How to construct a narrative to a particular brief
- How to apply or knowledge of film form to create a short film/ screenplay and storyboard
- How to apply aspects of short films and other influences into production pieces

We will develop/practise skills including:

- reading film texts analytically including the application and evaluation of film language, contexts and genre
- Applying knowledge of the production process of film making/ Screen play writing/ creating a story board
- How to evaluatively analyse your own productions

Some of the vocabulary that we will use includes:

Brief, narrative, evaluation, shot types, mise en scene, sound, editing, footage

You could learn more about this topic by:

- Experimenting with filming and editing
- Reading a range of screenplays



Your teacher will assess your knowledge & understanding throughout the topic by looking at your work, questioning, discussion and giving you feedback in lots of different ways. The key pieces of work in this topic are:

- Formal assessment of NEA Production and Evaluative Analysis – 30% of A Level



Film Studies – British Cinema



West Kirby
Grammar School

Learning about this topic is important because: you should understand the relevance of British film and its production context in relation to Hollywood. Understanding the problems and limitations faced by directors and producers regarding finance and stages of production. You will watch films that will enable you to evaluate the presentation of British lives and lifestyles through their ideological frameworks. You will learn how to analyse the narrative structures, character portrayal and performance using your film language and close reading skills.

This builds on: study of micro and macro structures in the introductory unit.

This leads to: understanding World Cinema contexts; further development of close analytical skill; application of film concepts and theory

We will learn:

- the connotations of visual elements and sounds
- binary oppositions, both those contained in the narrative and those contained in film's use of formal elements
- the implications of spectator positioning and address
- ideological perspectives and an evaluation of the ideological critical approach to film.
- narrative construction and devices

We will develop/practise skills including:

- oracy and performance skills including debating and presenting talks
- reading film texts analytically including the application and evaluation of film language
- writing extended and informed personal responses
- responding critically and appropriately to (exam) questions

Some of the vocabulary that we will use includes:

Binary opposition, narrative theory, ideological framework, ALL film language, BFI

You could learn more about this topic by:

Researching key facts on IMDB
Bonus material on DVDs
YouTube clips, interviews
Watch T2 and other films by Danny Boyle and Ken Loach



Your teacher will assess your knowledge & understanding throughout the topic by looking at your work, questioning, discussion and giving you feedback in lots of different ways. The key pieces of work in this topic are:

- extended writing to analyse key scenes
- planning exam responses
- a formal exam essay response
- timed essay response