

Module Title: What is Cinema?

Module Code: FLM5203

Credit Value: 30

Level: 5

Pre-requisite modules:

Content Description

This module will introduce students to a broad range of theoretical and critical approaches to cinema. Students will gain an understanding of early critical approaches to cinema, such as the debates between formalists and realists, and then of other areas of classical film theory including semiotics, psychoanalysis, feminist and postcolonial approaches. More contemporary approaches to the cinema are explored, including expanded postcolonial and queer approaches. We also consider the more recent framework of cognitivism, and finally the implications of the transformation of film and cinema in a digital age. Students will also gain an appreciation of the historical and cultural contexts in which given critical approaches have emerged. These approaches will be illustrated, and their universal claims questioned, with reference to a wide range of films.

Module Aims

This module aims to build on the first year Film Studies core modules, developing students' understanding of the systematic study of film by introducing them to a spectrum of critical concepts and approaches. Students on this module can expect to gain, firstly, an understanding of a broad range of critical approaches to film, as well as of the historical and cultural contexts in which they emerged and, secondly, an appreciation of the merits and limits of different critical approaches, and the ability to evaluate the appropriateness of different conceptual readings of a film.