

TITLE	Professional Film Writing
SI MODULE CODE	77-5523-00S
CREDITS	20
LEVEL	5
JACS CODE	P303
SUBJECT GROUP	Stage and Screen
DEPARTMENT	Humanities
MODULE LEADER	Sheldon Hall

MODULE STUDY HOURS (based on 10 hours per credit)			
Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities	Placement (if applicable)	Independent Guided Study	Total Number of Study Hours
36		164	200

MODULE AIM

To introduce students to various forms of professional writing regarding the cinema and their attendant conventions, skills and disciplines, with a view to helping them prepare for the world of work in these areas.

MODULE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By engaging successfully with this module a student will be able to:

- Write reviews, articles and publicity materials for a range of film-related outlets
Maps to Programme Learning Outcomes 5, 7, 9
- Identify, develop and practise the skills required of professional film writers in a range of different contexts
Maps to Programme Learning Outcomes 4, 9
- Articulate and interrogate the values and assumptions underlying the different modes of professional film writing, and
Maps to Programme Learning Outcomes 4, 7, 8, 10
- Reflect on and evaluate their own skills and prepare for the world of work in the field of professional film writing.
Maps to Programme Learning Outcomes 9, 10

INDICATIVE CONTENT

The module will require critical engagement with, and the practise of, a number of different forms of professional film writing, including but not limited to:

- reviewing for general-readership newspapers and magazines
- Journalism in different film-related periodicals (e.g. *Empire*, *Sight and Sound*, *Cinema Retro*)

- film coverage in the trade press (e.g. *Variety*, *Screen International*)
- academic articles for scholarly journals and collections
- blogging, podcasts, specialist film websites and online journals
- listings and publicity blurb for specialist cinema programme information
- liner notes and audio commentaries for DVDs and Blu-rays, and
- film publicity and marketing material.

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT - STRATEGY AND METHODS

Students will be supported in their learning to achieve the above outcomes in the following ways:

- the module will be taught mainly through seminars, which will include introductory presentations on particular topics from the module tutor and from invited guest speakers
- discussion will centre on analysis of particular examples of different forms of film writing and will consider the skills and disciplines required for them
- students will be expected to undertake extensive reading of relevant material as part of their programme of self-directed study
- students will be expected to write material on a regular weekly basis, to post their work on the module blog and to select the best of this material for assessment as part of their portfolio, and
- one-to-one tutorials will be available by request at all stages of the module.

ASSESSMENT TASK INFORMATION

Task No.	Short Description of Task	SI Code EX/CW/PR	Task Weighting %	Word Count	In-module retrieval available
1	Portfolio	CW	50	2000	N
2	Essay	CW	50	2000	N

FEEDBACK

Students will receive feedback on their performance in the following ways:

- verbal and written formative feedback will be given on the students' written work by the module tutor prior to its formal submission for assessment
- detailed written summative feedback will be given on the assessed portfolio of writings and the analytical essay, and
- one-to-one tutorials will be available by request at all stages of the module.

LEARNING RESOURCES FOR THIS MODULE (INCLUDING READING LISTS)

Module Documentation: A full module guide will be made available by the start of teaching, containing detailed reading lists for each week, along with assignment descriptions and assessment criteria.

Shuspace: The module Blackboard site will include electronic copies of module documentation, links to relevant websites and learning materials, and additional information where required.

LTA Resources: Students will be expected to make extensive use of the collections of journals held in Adsetts Learning Centre, along with the access it provides to current and back issues of journals and newspapers online.

KEY TEXTS:

BARKER, Martin with AUSTIN, Thomas (2000) *From Antz to Titanic: Reinventing Film Analysis* Pluto

CLAYTON, Alex & KLEVAN, Andrew (eds) (2011) *The Language and Style of Film Criticism* Routledge

CORRIGAN, Timothy (2009) *A Short Guide to Writing about Film* Longman

ELSAESSER, Thomas & BUCKLAND, Warren (2002) *Studying Contemporary American Film: a Guide to Movie Analysis* Arnold

GOCSIK, Karen & BARSAM, Richard (2007) *Writing about Movies* WW Norton

MURRAY, Edward (1975) *Nine American Film Critics: a study of theory and practice* Ungar

VARIOUS (2001) 'Film Criticism in America Today: a Critical Symposium', *Cineaste* 26:1

SECTION 2 MODULE INFORMATION FOR STAFF ONLY

MODULE DELIVERY AND ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

MODULE STATUS - INDICATE IF ANY CHANGES BEING MADE

NEW MODULE	Y
EXISTING MODULE - NO CHANGE	N
Title Change	N
Level Change	N
Credit Change	N
Assessment Pattern Change	N
Change to Delivery Pattern	N
Date the changes (or new module) will be implemented	09/2015

MODULE DELIVERY PATTERN - Give details of the start and end dates for each module. If the course has more than one intake, for example, September and January, please give details of the module start and end dates for each intake.

	Module Begins	Module Ends
Course Intake 1	01/2016	06/2016

Is timetabled contact time required for this module?	Y
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Are any staff teaching on this module non-SHU employees?	N
If yes, please give details of the employer institution(s) below	
What proportion of the module is taught by these non-SHU staff, expressed as a percentage?	N/A

MODULE ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Indicate how the module will be marked	
*Overall PERCENTAGE Mark of 40%	Y
*Overall PASS / FAIL Grade	N

**Choose one only – module cannot include both percentage mark and pass/fail graded tasks*

SUB-TASKS

Will any sub-tasks (activities) be used as part of the assessment strategy for this module?	N
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If sub-tasks / activities are to be used this must be approved within the Faculty prior to approval. Sub-task / activity marks will be recorded locally and extenuating circumstances, extensions, referrals and deferrals will not apply to sub-tasks / activities.

FINAL TASK

According to the Assessment Information shown in the Module Descriptor, which task will be the LAST TASK to be taken or handed-in? (Give task number as shown in the Assessment Information Grid in Section 1 of the Descriptor)	Task No. 2
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NON-STANDARD ASSESSMENT PATTERNS

MARK 'X' IN BOX IF MODULE ASSESSMENT PATTERN IS NON STANDARD, eg MODEL B, ALL TASKS MUST BE PASSED AT 40%. NB: Non-standard assessment patterns are subject to faculty agreement and approval by Registry Services - see guidance. notes.	
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REVISIONS

July 2017	Operational change approved by Humanities Departmental Board 21/06/17
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