

Programme Specification

BA (Hons) Film Studies

<i>School:</i>	Humanities
<i>Subject area:</i>	Media and Film Studies
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2023-24
<i>in the month(s) of:</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Certificate of Higher Education Film Studies Diploma of Higher Education Film Studies BA (Ord) Film Studies
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	P303
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies (2016)
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Undergraduate periods of study ¹ for full-time / part-time
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with foundation year</i>	Yes
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	Yes
<i>Placement year opportunity:</i>	Yes

Introduction and special features

The Film Studies Programme at York St John University is made up of exciting and cutting edge content which represent the changing nature of the subject area and the links between film and other disciplines.

A number of key strands can be found in the programme which aims to enhance your experience and also give you transferable skills. These include:

- The recent 'de-Westernisation' of Film Studies and the growing body of academic research and scholarship into Transnationalism in Cinema.
- The exploration of regional and national cinema as a cultural expression which reflects history, ideology and popular culture.
- The trans-media emergence of 'Screen Studies' as a discipline which incorporates the changes in media where film culture has blended with televisual forms and digital media such as video game and animation.
- An incorporation of non-fiction film forms and Documentary Studies.
- The developments of scholarly approaches to wider film culture, fandom, user generated content and convergence culture.

¹ The standard period of study will apply unless otherwise stated

- Curricula which encourage students to get involved in optional field trips (partly subsidised by the programme) to, for instance, film festivals.
- Modules which require students to engage in enterprise activities such as organising and promoting film themed events and film publications.
- Engagement with the Yorkshire Film Archive which is curated by YSJU.
- Opportunity to become involved with our own publication, Neutral Magazine (archived here) <http://2017.neutralmagazine.com/>

We are also dedicated to the student enhancement strategy which includes:

1. The further integration of the Neutral project as an e-publication driven by the talent and dedication of our students (see our latest edition here: www.neutralmagazine.com).
2. A further development of part subsidised optional excursion events which allow you to explore film cultures on a local, national and international level.
3. A healthy roster of visiting speakers, industry experts and academics who will enrich the discourse of your programme and provide practical insight into Film in a commercial and creative context.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [undergraduate](#) study.

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Recognition of prior learning \(RPL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aim(s)

The aims of the Film Studies programmes are to:

- Provide you with a comprehensive grounding in the concepts, theories, methodologies, issues and debates on the subject of Cinema and Screen Studies.
- Examine the evolution of Film as cultural expression and as a medium in dialogue with other forms.
- Enable you to develop key academic, generic, cognitive and technical skills which will enhance employment potential.
- Facilitate personal development to enable you to be independent, effective in interpersonal and professional situations and be able to undertake further academic study.
- Engage with the discipline as a de-westernised subject and explore the ways in which film operates in a global and transnational context.
- Encourage you to explore the implications of your academic study in the wider society to which they belong.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 4

- 4.1 Gather and organise information from recommended sources in the discipline of Film Studies.
- 4.2 Identify and practice the key elements (e.g. Essay writing, portfolio building, presentation, etc) for both short-term and long-term academic development.
- 4.3 Demonstrate awareness of foundational conceptual, theoretical and historical perspectives relating to cinema and its cultural contexts.
- 4.4 Demonstrate competence in the analysis and evaluation of film texts.
- 4.5 Consider and evaluate some of the relevant skills and learning requirements for working independently and in groups.
- 4.6 Communicate effectively using a range of key skills appropriate for the audience and purpose.

Level 5

- 5.1 Demonstrate a critical understanding of the key theories and concepts relating to film and screen studies.
- 5.2 Critically analyse data and information relevant to study of film.
- 5.3 Demonstrate effective research skills and methodologies in preparation for dissertation level study.
- 5.4 Effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- 5.5 Make appropriate selections of materials and use them analytically and critically in the exploration of cinema.
- 5.6 Develop professional and career skills, and utilise key skills in the context of work related learning.

Level 6

- 6.1 Demonstrate the appropriate application of advanced research skills.
- 6.2 Deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry to the key strands of the degree; cinema and society; film and audience; genre fiction; transnationalism.
- 6.3 Demonstrate independence, innovation and entrepreneurial skills in working and academic practices.
- 6.4 Devise and sustain arguments, assumptions and abstract concepts and effectively engage with such matters as a critical thinker.
- 6.5 Demonstrate a complex understanding of subject-relevant information, ideas and arguments effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- 6.6 Synthesise and apply complex theoretical perspectives and concepts to a range of situations and issues relevant to film studies.

Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					compulsory or optional to take C or O	non-compensatable or compensatable NC or X
FIL4002M	4	1	Filmmakers on Film	20	C	X
MED4004M	4	1	Media Research	20	C	X
FIL4003M	4	1	Britain on Film	20	C	X
FIL4001M	4	2	Film and Its Audience	20	C	X
AMS4002M	4	2	Cinema and Society	20	C	X
FIL4004M	4	2	Cult and Extreme Cinema	20	C	X
FIL5005M	5	1	Imaginary Worlds: Researching Science Fiction	20	C	X
FIL5002M	5	1	Film and the American Imagination	20	C	X
MED5004M	5	2	Media Enterprise	20	C	X
FIL5001M	5	2	Independent Cinema	20	C	X
FIL5003M	5	2	Gothic and Horror (Film Studies)	20	O	X
¹ Choose either FIL5004M or MED5007M in semester 1						
FIL5004M	5	1	European Cinema	20	O ¹	X
MED5001M	5	1	Culture, Controversy and Media	20	O ¹	X
MED6001M	6	1&2	Dissertation	40	C	NC
FIL6001M	6	1	Animations	20	C	X
FIL6002M	6	1	Documentary Film Studies	20	C	X
FIL6003M	6	2	Transnational Cinema	20	C	X
LIT6004M	6	2	Gender and Sexualities	20	C	X

Learning, teaching and assessment

We provide a positive learning environment and generally avoid large scale lectures. Instead you will experience a range of teaching styles and settings and a variety of approaches to learning. Classes will generally involve tutor-led input interspersed with student activities.

Activities may include small group work, discussions, guided reading and library-based research leading to feedback alongside seminars and tutorials (one-to-one meetings with a tutor). In addition, there is an emphasis on independent study outside of formal teaching sessions. This 'supported open learning' (SOL) will include directed reading tasks, student-based project work, engaging with the online virtual learning environment (VLE) and the Learning Centre and encouragement to attend guest lectures and research seminars. This includes engagements with professional designers and technicians who will instruct you as the course progresses.

The range of resources is designed to enable you to work collaboratively and build your knowledge beyond guided reading so that you are able to engage with key debates within the approaches to theory. Film Studies is a rich and varied discipline and, as such, you must be able and willing to explore the depth of

knowledge and experience at your disposal. You will study popular cultural forms as well as more extreme and experimental forms of cinema. This will require you to undertake reflective learning.

York St. John University adopts the position that students are co-producers of knowledge rather than just recipients of it. We see students as an important aspect of a student centred approach. As such we encourage you to explore wider film culture including York's rich cinematic culture and special events and resources such as the Aesthetica Short Film Festival and the Yorkshire Film Archive.

The programme will help you to develop your research skills and methodologies. For example at Level 4 you will be introduced to the foundations of research practices in the module Media Research and these are applicable throughout the whole degree. At Level 5 this will be further explored in modules such as Imaginary Worlds, Culture, Controversy and Media, and Gothic and Horror, where methodologies such as the compiling of a literature review and preparing for presentations are honed. At Level six you will be instructed on how to develop a literature review for the 40 credit dissertation module and assisted in creating a research file on modules such as Gender and Sexualities.

Throughout your studies you will have an opportunity to undertake learning that is related to the careers that you may wish to pursue in the future. In Level 5, you will study a specialist module that will allow you to reflect upon a range of possible future careers. Guest speakers from the

Media and academic world will provide relevant learning experiences.

You will be assigned an academic tutor in addition to module tutors. The role of the academic tutor is to provide additional support with your studies where necessary. In addition to this support the university provides extensive support in a range of academic skills, such as writing assignments and the use of the library for locating relevant information.

Assessment approaches

York St John University is committed to embedding formative assessment as part of its approach to teaching, learning and assessment. These are activities which develop your understanding of how assessed work is marked and how you might produce work to a higher standard. The intention is to ensure that you receive on-going feedback relating to your learning and development which will assist you in being successful in your studies. You will encounter a range of assessment approaches which are designed to enable you to develop a range of skills and meet the learning outcomes detailed earlier.

These include:

- Short and long essays
- Analyses of textual and cultural forms and practices
- Reviews
- Individual and group presentations (oral and technology based)
- Critical self-evaluation
- Individual and group portfolios (using a range of platforms such as Word-Press and InDesign)
- Group and individually produced artefacts, including productions in sound, audio-visual and other media.

Formative and summative assessment will be by a variety of methods appropriate to the specified Learning Outcomes for the programme, the level, and the specific module.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [general regulations](#) for undergraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensatable.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#) [see page two]
- [Strategic Plan 2015-20](#) [see page four]
- [QAA subject benchmark statement](#)
- [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Date written / revised: 01/07/2018

Programme originally approved: