

## BMED207 Film Theory

ECTS Value: 3 ECTS  
Self-Study Hours: 36

Contact Hours: 15  
Assessment Hours: 24

### Overall Objectives and Outcomes

This module introduces learners to the key tenets and approaches in film theories and debates since the inception of the cinema. Film Theory also approaches the 'big questions' that have surrounded cinema and puts them into historical context. Although specific topics will vary, representative topics may address competing definitions of film and its constitutive elements, the effects that cinema has on spectators, the social, cultural and political implications that moving images reproduce, and the status of the medium between art and entertainment. Course participants will debate seminal writings on the nature of film and bring their arguments to bear on exemplary film productions.

By the end of this module, the learner will be able to:

#### Competences:

- a. Create resources and lesson plans including different aspects of film theory education that demonstrates consistency across a given curriculum;
- b. Supervise and guide students to critically analyse media messages;
- c. Create appropriate resources for lessons using critical thinking and reflective skills;
- d. Manage different modes of assessment to cater for all abilities;
- e. Guide students to absorb the various methods of research in cinema studies;
- f. Prepare students to critically engage with various theoretical and critical approaches in their analysis of film.

#### Knowledge:

- a. Identify film theories within broader theoretical and industrial developments and understand their various interrelationships;
- b. Recall a range of different theoretical perspectives to particular examples from films;
- c. Create a comparative and evaluative understanding of approaches to films;
- d. Assemble on the basic key concepts and the terminology of film studies in their research;
- e. Draw on their improved expressive potential in their critical engagement with film studies.

#### Skills:

- a. Demonstrate a good grasp of the relevant curriculum at required levels;
- b. Apply a broad spectrum of such schools of thought as feminism, Marxism, psychoanalysis, and poststructuralism when critically appraising films;
- c. Encourage students to develop an ability to conceptualize key aspects of film theory;
- d. Apply relevant cultural and theoretical concepts to film texts;
- e. Undertake precise close film textual analysis with specialist knowledge;

### Assessment Methods

This module will be assessed through: Class Participation, Assignment.

## Suggested Readings

### Core Reading List:

1. Braudy, L. and Cohen, M. (2016). *Film Theory and Criticism: Introductory Readings* (8<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
2. Carroll, N. (1988). *Philosophical Problems of Classical Film Theory*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
3. Carroll, N. (1988). *Mystifying Movies: Fads and Fallacies in Contemporary Film Theory*. New York: Columbia University Press.
4. Corrigan, T. (2015). *A Short Guide to Writing About Film* (9<sup>th</sup> ed.). Harlow: Pearson Education Ltd.
5. Stam, R. (2000). *Film Theory: An Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.
6. Wollen, P. (2013). *Signs and Meaning in the Cinema* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). London: Secker and Warburg in association with the British Film Institute

### Supplementary Reading List:

1. Arnheim, R. (1957). *Film as Art*. Berkely and Los Angeles, CA: University of California Press.
2. Bazin, A. (2004). *What is Cinema? Vol. I* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). (Gray, H. Trans). Berkeley: University of California Press. (Originally published in 1958).
3. Bazin, A. (2005). *What is Cinema? Vol. II* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). (Gray, H. Trans). Berkeley: University of California Press. (Originally published in 1959).
4. Bolas, T. (2009). *Screen Education: From Film Appreciation to Media Studies*. Bristol and Chicago: Intellect Ltd.
5. Bordwell, D. and Thompson, K. (2010). *Film Art: An Introduction* (9<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.
6. Etherington-Wright, C, and Doughty, R. (2017). *Understanding Film Theory* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). London, UK: Bloomsbury Publishing.
7. Hill, J and Church Gibson, P. (1998). *The Oxford Guide to Film Studies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
8. Turner, G. (2009). *Film ss Social Practice IV* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). London and New York: Routledge.
9. Perkins, V.F. (1993). *Film as Film: Understanding and Judging Movies* (1<sup>st</sup> Da Capo ed.). Boston, MA: Da Capo Press.