UCL SUMMER SCHOOL

ACTION! INTRODUCTION TO FILM STUDIES

Key Information

Module code          ISSU0001
Taught during        Session One: Monday 1 July - Friday 19 July 2019
Module workload      45 teaching hours plus approximately 100 study hours
Module leader        Dr Cristina Massaccesi
Department            School of European Languages, Culture and Society, Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Credit                15 UCL credits, 7.5 ECTS, 4 US
Level                 Level 1, first year Undergraduate
Pre-requisites        Standard entry requirements
Assessment            Two reports (15% each), Essay (70%)

Module Overview
This module will introduce students to the discipline of Film Studies by focusing on the main theoretical and technical aspects of filmmaking. Through lectures, seminars, screenings and excursions, students will learn how to approach and discuss films analytically and will acquire an awareness of the history and development of cinema and of the key concepts that can be used to discuss and write about films.

Week One: History of Cinema
- The Birth of Cinema
- Silent Cinema: German Expressionism and Soviet Montage
- The Golden Age of Hollywood
- The Digital Age

Week Two: The Film as Text
- Setting the Scene: Mise-en-scène
- Creating a Story: Editing
- Hearing Films: Elements of Sound Design
- Visit to the BFI National Archive

Week Three: Film Genres
- The Documentary Genre
- The Comedy Genre
- The Horror Genre
- Visit to the Stanley Kubrick Archive

Please note that this module description is indicative and may be subject to change.
Module Aims
The aim of this module is to familiarise the students with those elements that are at the basis of film analysis while developing an appropriate technical vocabulary to be used in class discussions and in their written assessments. They will focus on the features of the main cinematographic genres (horror, documentary, drama etc.) and on the history, development and impact of important movements such as German Expressionism, Soviet cinema, Italian Neorealism, American independent cinema et cetera.

Teaching Methods
Interactive lectures and seminars, open class and small group discussions, film screening, excursions, group work and private study. Reading lists will be available online via the UCL library site. Students will be directed towards class materials, further support and discussion forums on Moodle.

Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this module, students will have:

- Acquired appropriate technical vocabulary and cinematic terminology (e.g. mise-en-scene, editing, sound etc.);
- Developed their analytical skills when conducting a formal investigation of films;
- Become aware of a set of social, cultural and political issues which have triggered or are connected with key developments and tendencies in the history of cinema (e.g. silent cinema, the advent of synchronized sound, avant-garde, auteurism, digital cinema, genre theory etc.);
- Developed their ability to discuss films in a written and oral manner through presentations, in-class discussions, sequence analyses etc.;

Assessment Methods
- 500-word report (15%)
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- 2,500-word essay (70%)

Key Texts


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