UCL SUMMER SCHOOL

LONDON ON FILM

Key Information

Module code  ISSU0026
Taught during  Session Two: Monday 22 July - Friday 9 August 2019
Module workload  45 teaching hours plus approximately 100 study hours
Module leader  Dr Roland-François Lack
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  Essay (25%)
             Examination (75%)

Module Overview
An introduction to filmmaking in London since 1895. Three key topics: studio-production c.1905 (R.W. Paul) and c. 1950 (Ealing Studios); London gangster films, 1980-2010; London as documented by fiction cinema, with a specific focus on the 1960s.

Week One
- Introduction
- History of studio production in London
- 2 case studies: RW Paul & Ealing Studios

Week Two
- Genre and place
- Gangster film as genre
- Mapping locations

Week Three
- Fiction film as documentary
- ‘Swinging London’ cinema: local and international

Module Aims
This course introduces students to important and distinctive aspects of London as a centre of film-making since 1895. The course focuses on three key topics: London-based studio-production, with examples from pioneer
R.W. Paul and from the Ealing Studios after WW2; the gangster film as city-centred genre, with examples from the 1980s onwards; London-made cinema as document of the changing city, with examples from across the history of film-making in London. Through the close analysis of London-made films and the study of their context, students will come to understand the significance of London for the history of cinema, and be encouraged to think about place in general as key to the appreciation of cinema as art and as spectacle.

Teaching Methods
A combination of lectures and seminars comprise the taught aspect of the course, supplemented by field trips to relevant sites in London (film locations, studio sites).

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

- Be familiar with the history of film-making in London
- Be able to analyse films in terms of location and the representation of place
- Develop more general film-analysis skills, in particular regarding genre
- Understand how film documents the changing city
- Understand how film creates perceptions of the city, both for its residents and for those who come to visit.

Assessment Methods

- 1,500-word essay (25%)
- Examination (75%)

Key Texts

Bibliography

Filmography
*R.W. Paul: the Collected Films 1895-1908*
*Hue and Cry* (Charles Crichton 1947)
*Kind Hearts and Coronets* (Robert Hamer 1949)
*The Blue Lamp* (Basil Dearden 1950)
*The Ladykillers* (Alexander Mackendrick 1955)
*The Knack* (Richard Lester 1965)
*Blowup* (Michelangelo Antonioni 1966)
*Dead Stop* [Col Cuore in Gola] (Tinto Brass 1967)
*Smashing Time* (Desmond Davis 1967)
*The Long Good Friday* (John Mackenzie 1980)
*Croupier* (Mike Hodges 1998)
*Face* (Antonia Bird 1997)
*Layer Cake* (Matthew Vaughn 2004)

Please note that this module description is indicative and may be subject to change.