

MODULE TITLE AND CODE:	Film Theory and Criticism (FSS033/FS4042)
LECTURER:	Dr. Paula Quigley
CONTACT HOURS:	22 lecture/seminar hours 22 screening hours
SEMESTER:	2 (Hilary Term)
ECTS ALLOCATION:	5 / 10 ECTS

Rationale and aims

This module will consider some of the ways in which film has been theorised since its inception up to the present day. We will begin by considering early film theory's focus on questions of medium specificity, film language, and film and reality. We will then explore models of film authorship and spectatorship. We will discuss ways in which the relationship between film and society and film and ideology has been conceptualised. Following this, we will look at more recent interventions and reorientations in relation to identity politics, as well as the so-called 'corporeal turn'. Running throughout these discussions will be the idea that theories of film, like films themselves, can at least to some degree be understood as 'of their moment'. Overall, this module is designed to develop and deepen students' engagement with film theory and criticism through close readings of key texts.

Course Content

Medium specificity
 Film and reality
 Film authorship
 Film and/as language
 Film and ideology
 Film and gender
 Film spectatorship
 Film and politics
 Film and affect

Resources

There is no set text for this course. Required viewing and reading is set each week. Further viewing and reading is recommended as appropriate.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

- Identify key issues in the history of film theory and criticism; (PO1)
- Analyse key issues in the history of film theory and criticism; (PO2)
- Apply the theoretical models and critical approaches under discussion to specific films and film styles; (PO3, PO5, PO7).

Methods of Teaching and Student Learning

Teaching methods include screenings of films and film excerpts, lectures and seminar discussions. Students will be expected to attend all classes and screenings; read from primary as well as secondary sources and comment upon these readings; participate in class discussion; perform the required assessment(s). Students may be required to make a class presentation on some aspect of the course covered.

Methods of assessment

90% coursework

10% participation

Module Evaluation

Course and Teaching Surveys will be circulated to students at the end of the module.

Feedback will be used to reflect on course development.