

Module code: MOD000438	Version: 3 Date Amended: 27/Jan/2020
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1. Module Title
Avant-Garde Cinema

2a. Module Leader
Simon Payne

2b. School
Cambridge School of the Creative Industries

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
6

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	None		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module offers an historical approach to the various movements and themes associated with avant-garde film and experimental video. It sets these in aesthetic and socio-political contexts, while also affording the opportunity to study the work of a number of key film and video-makers in close detail. Throughout, students are expected to consider and reflect upon the coherence of the history of experimental film and video and its association with other artistic forms, as well as its dialectical relationship with the conventions and institutions of the mainstream against which it often rebels. In addition, the movement of the film avant-garde between the cinema and modern art is addressed, while maintaining a focus on the film avant-garde as 'an independent form of art practice with its own internal logic and aesthetic discourse' (Rees 1999). The module investigates the relationship between the aesthetic dimensions of experimental film and video work and the critical perspectives that are associated with the field. This involves an address to: the language of abstraction; means of investigating perception; engagements with the politics of representation, identification and spectatorship; and the impact of technological development in relation to the specificity of film, video and digital media. Students engage with these issues by means of a thorough study of certain works and the discussion of key theoretical texts.

6b. Outline Content

- Dada and Surrealism - Abstraction from its origins in the 1920s to the present. - Psychodrama and the 'mythopoetic'. - Underground Cinema - Structural Film - Video art and its relation to television. - Film and video art in the gallery.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Screening room with 16mm film, video and DVD Projection

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)

No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate coherent and critical understanding in defining and discussing the characteristics of avant-garde film and experimental video practices in detail.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate breadth and depth of understanding of the historical developments and aesthetic concerns in the field of avant-garde film and experimental video.
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Discuss critically the interrelationship between the avant-garde and the mainstream, and associations with other artistic practices
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Analyse and evaluate the critical relationship between practice and theory and synthesize a range of appropriate theoretical and methodological paradigms.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2024/5	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	0	None	None
Other teacher managed learning	24	1-4	2 hour seminar each week
Student managed learning	126	1-4	Independent research and preparation of assignments
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Critical Essay: 3000 words					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]