

Module code: MOD000439	Version: 4 Date Amended: 20/Jan/2025
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1. Module Title
Gender and Popular Cinema

2a. Module Leader
Henry Miller

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 explores the appeal of contemporary popular cinema and builds on the critical ideas and theories you have already studied in previous years of the film studies program. By examining current debates in the field of film studies, you will be encouraged to engage deeply with film theory and get a better understanding of the impact and meaning of popular cinema.

We will define and critically discuss the nature of popular cinema and how multiplex culture has grown in places like North America and the UK. Key topics will include: the pros and cons of the multiplex; analysis of dominant genres and conventions; consideration of the recyclable nature of popular film narratives; the depiction of gender, sexuality, 'race' and class on screen; audience and spectatorship; representations of violence; the rise of the blockbuster and star studies.

The module considers the force of popular cinema as an important site for working through societal fears and fantasies by closely examining a variety of films, from, for example, *Jaws* (Spielberg, US, 1975) to *Titanic* (Cameron, US, 2000).

6b. Outline Content

- The 1970s and 1980s: The Growth of Popular Film
- Audiences and Spectatorship
- Violence in Popular Cinema
- Meaning and Popular Movie-going
- Star Studies
- Further development of research, study presentation and writing skills

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Seminar rooms with VCR and DVD screening facilities

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, through expository essay writing and oral presentation, breadth and depth of understanding of a range of key theoretical approaches to the study of popular film.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Explore and critically evaluate a range of debates in the development of contemporary film theory and relate these to the close study of individual films.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Evidence competence in reflexive study, research presentation and writing skills in the production and innovation of film analysis.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critically assess and evaluate the relationship between film, place of exhibition, mode of distribution and the larger socio-economic culture.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2025/6	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	Hours of independent viewing, 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	80 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Critical Essay; 2500 words					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Practical	1	20 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Oral Presentation; 10 minutes					

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]