

Module code: MOD000449		Version: 3 Date Amended: 20/Jan/2025	
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1. Module Title	
Film Journalism	

2a. Module Leader	
Toby Venables	

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
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	BA (Hons) Film; BA (Hons) Film and Media; BA (Hons) Writing and English Literature; BA (Hons) Writing and Film; BA (Hons) Creative Writing		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

Starting with an exploration of the various modes within which film journalism functions, the module guides you through the world of professional film journalism, equipping you to create original features for a variety of readerships in a range of media.

Seminars are structured around an exercise designed to illustrate - with the aid of examples from the professional context - how to work with editors; planning and structuring interviews; developing, drafting and revising reviews and features; tailoring output according to a professional brief and/or a specific audience type; and developing a personal style. The seminars also help you to understand the practicalities of professional journalism in print and other media, with examples drawn from mainstream and specialist sources, at national, regional and local level. These explorations are reinforced by regular formative assignments, leading to the creation of a personal portfolio of work. You share and develop ideas in small peer groups overseen and guided by the seminar leader. Feedback is provided on a regular basis on these discussions and on written work, the aim being to equip you with the necessary tools to identify, understand and communicate confidently your informed responses to a range of films and film-related topics in a range of styles, and across a range of professional platforms. It is envisaged that in taking this module you will consider professional opportunities for film criticism with, for example, the ARU student newspaper and the Cambridge Film Festival Daily (print and online), and liaise with the Cambridge Film Consortium regarding work with the Young Person's Film Jury.

6b. Outline Content

- Exploration and discussion of the practicalities of professional film journalism;
- Critical analysis of journalistic pieces from a range of media;
- Reading and discussion of different writing styles and approaches for different readerships;
- Completion and discussion of a range of exercises exploring different kinds writing typically found in professional film journalism, including interviews, features and reviews;
- Viewing and discussion of documentary and feature clips to aid understanding of the film industry;
- Sharing, discussion and development of ideas with peers and seminar leader;
- Creation of original features articles and the building of a personal portfolio and writing style;
- Writing a critical commentary and evaluation on research methods, working practices and portfolio submissions.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

- Seminar room with tables and DVD/VCR screening facilities.
- Access to multimedia suites - Helmore 314/316

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 critical understanding of a range of modes of film journalism in a variety of media;
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Illustrate a systematic and sustained knowledge of the film industry.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Produce and present structured film features to a professional standard, including reviews, essays, interviews and themed features;
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Appraise and apply critical awareness of the professional film journalism publishing process.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	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 workshop each week
Student managed learning	126	1-4	Self directed learning
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	1-3	75 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Portfolio: Range of pieces: 2000 words max. To include: features, interviews and reviews. End of Trimester submission.					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	4	25 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Critical commentary and Evaluation: 1000 words max. End of Trimester submission.					

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]