



Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD005245	Version: 1 Date Amended: 18/Feb/2016
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1. Module Title
Film and Television: Research and Context

2a. Module Leader
Catherine Elliott

2b. School
Cambridge School of the Creative Industries

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

3a. Level
7

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
30

4b. Study Hours
300

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

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module deals with the relationship between research and filmmaking. It explores key methods of research in filmmaking, both academic and industrial. These include: research methodologies and techniques (how to ask productive research questions; where to go and how to find materials relevant to your studies); identification and research of a suitable subject for a film; an understanding of context in the media world textual analysis of form and style in a variety of factual films and TV programmes; critical analysis of the arguments offered by a range of texts. As a focus around which to organize this skills acquisition, the module analyses the work and methods of several well-known factual filmmakers.

Alongside the lectures, you make two versions of a film which explores a subject of your choosing. You are encouraged to experiment and push yourself beyond your usual practice. Your filmmaking is a “journey” of self-discovery and reflection. The research design process involves writing a pitch, identifying key research milestones, delivering one version of the film, evaluating it and producing a final version. Group critiques and peer reviews allow you to discuss the ongoing progress of your projects.

6b. Outline Content

Introduction. Understanding of words & worlds “film” & “television”

Two research modes: academic & industrial

Pitching; research design

Seeing & hearing film (mise-en-scene analysis, cinematography, editing, soundtrack)

Narrative / Authorship

Genre

Ethics

Group crits & peer reviews of first & second film versions

2 case studies of filmmakers: context, methods & textual analysis

Student presentations on filmmakers & their methods

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Media Services

Box of Broadcast (BoB), University Library

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	Identify, compare and synthesise appropriate theoretical and research-based knowledge in film theory and programme making
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Analyse and evaluate with critical awareness the cultural context of a film/programme
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate a practical understanding of the complexities and unpredictability of researching a factual programme/film
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Experiment with and evaluate programme form with confidence and initiative and to a professional level
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Develop and demonstrate pro-actively ethical awareness in film making through managing ethical dilemmas and finding solutions
6	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Cultivate self-reflective learning in order to improve professional practice and develop autonomy

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	18	1-6	1.5 hours x 12 weeks
Other teacher managed learning	26	1-6	1.5 hours x 12 weeks seminars/workshops 4 x 2 hours screenings of films
Student managed learning	256	1-6	Self-directed study or peer-managed learning activity & the ongoing development of visual work on a weekly basis outside of taught sessions
TOTAL:	300		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-6	100 (%)	Fine Grade	40 (%)

Portfolio including written pitch, development workbook, 2 versions of film with accompanying documentation and written reflective commentary (2000 – 2500 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]