



The Cardinal Wiseman School
A Level courses

FILM STUDIES

Entry Requirements:

5 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including English Language level 4. Students should have a keen interest in film and the creative industries. We **do** watch a lot of films but you also have to write about them.

What is Film Studies at Cardinal Wiseman?
Film, both globally and nationally, is a massive industry and contributes billions of pounds to the economy. London continues to be at the centre of this booming industry. Students who join the course come with high levels of enthusiasm and expectation. This course will not disappoint those who have a passion for film.

The course allows students to study, analyse and evaluate the power of film, its effects on spectators and its value as an art form. You will get the opportunity to explore a range of films from different countries, different time periods and different formats

The course encompasses mainstream film from the USA and the UK but it also stretches the students by offering them a range of independent smaller-scale European and global films which broaden the learner's horizons. We study cultures, representations of people, places and events, and we also consider the development of technology in film and how these representations have been altered. We also study the fascinating aspects of experimental film cultures, which will challenge and inspire students in equal measure.

There are two formal examinations plus a Non-Examined Assessment component where students will create a short film sequence, from planning to treatment to assembling the crew to filming and, finally, post-production techniques.

The Film Studies and Media Studies department at Cardinal Wiseman 6th Form has, for several years, been successful in gaining places for students who attend the BFI Academy, despite tremendous competition for places. Those who have attended the BFI Academy have gone on to further university study in contemporary arts and the creative media industries.

What will I study?

- **Component 1, Section A** - Hollywood Film 1930 – 1990: A comparative study of old and new Hollywood. One film is taken from the 'early' period (1930 – 1960), plus a more contemporary film from 1961 – 1990 like *Do The Right Thing.*

- **Component 1, Section B** - Hollywood Film since 2005: A comparative study of one US mainstream film, linked to an independent production. We are likely to study *Selma* and *Captain Fantastic.*
- **Component 2, Section A** – Global Filmmaking Perspectives: This component consists of European films such as *Pan's Labyrinth*, plus global films such as Mereilles' classic *City of God*.
- **Component 2, Section B** – Documentary: We study texts such as *Amy* (Kapadia, 2015) which traces the life arc of Amy Winehouse
- **Component 2, Section C** – Film Movements – Silent Cinema: Early silent film is the focus of this module, studying seminal texts like *Man With a Movie Camera,* and the work of Fritz Lang and Sergei Eisenstein
- **Component 2, Section D** – Film Movements – Experimental Film: Learners will study how established patterns of narrative and style in mainstream film can be exploded and re-defined. Examples of films *likely* to be studied are *Vivre sa Vie* and Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction*

What are the examination/coursework requirements?

Component 1: Varieties of Film and Filmmaking – 2.5 hours 35% of qualification
Component 2: Global Filmmaking Perspectives – 2.5 hours 35% of qualification
Component 3 - Film Production – Externally Moderated 30% of qualification

What skills will I develop?

- Analytical and Evaluative Writing
- Independent research skills (essential for higher education)
- Teamwork, collaboration, problem solving and evaluation
- Practical and creative skills used within the film industry
- A focus on how films prompt discussion of culture, ethics, sociology, philosophy, technology, politics, history…and much more
- Specific academic and technology skills which will allow progression into a career within the film/media/creative industries

How will this subject help me with my future career?

Studying film will highlight possible careers in many different areas including but not limited to:

- Advertising/marketing;
- Creative production,
- Camera operation,
- Directing film/television,
- Creative writing,
- Concept developer
- Art/costume/style designer

Many of the above skills will be developed to allow pupils to excel in further/higher education. Pupils are encouraged to develop their independent research skills and gain a love for learning in a subject that is exciting and rapidly evolving.