

BADF13H

EXPERIMENTAL CINEMA

Level: 6

Credit Value: 15

Pre-Requisites: NONE

Module Description

The module is designed to provide students with an awareness and understanding of experimental and avant-garde ideas and methods, and how they have been introduced and developed in film since 1900. The module is intended to encourage students to consider alternatives to mainstream cinema and appreciate how experimentation has helped shape film history and contemporary film making. The module also serves to cultivate and develop objective critical appreciation as a necessary academic skill required for Higher Education.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Research and analyse selected film texts using critical thinking skills to define an understanding of the key ideas and developments in experimental cinema.
2. Contextualise past and present experimental film texts and their relationship to cultural, artistic, technological and ethical changes in cinema history.
3. Present accurately referenced research from a variety of secondary sources utilising production skills to effectively communicate a critical and analytical understanding of the key ideas and developments in experimental cinema and its influence on film making.

Indicative Content

- Study of key experimental film texts from 1900 to date.
- Study of key artistic, cultural, technological and historical developments and their influence on film and film makers from 1900 to date.
- The future of experimental film in the digital age.
- Further development of study, academic and presentational skills including research, referencing and audio-visual presentation of work.

Learning & Teaching Strategies

This module will be delivered through lectures, seminars and tutorials. Screenings of key experimental films from 1900 to the present will provide a comprehensive selection of texts from which students will develop their own research. Screenings will also include documentaries on the work of experimental film makers. Students will engage in their own negotiated areas of research and will be expected to engage in critical debate based on the study of existing opinion. Presentation of research and critical study will be in the form of an

initial research proposal and a critical discussion and evaluation presented via an audio-visual production, utilising technical skills gained in production modules.

Assessment

Hand-in	Aggregate (Yes/No)	Semester Due
Proposal, 1200 words (30% of module) LO1, LO2	Yes	Sem 2, Mid
Video Presentation, 10-12 minutes (70% of module) LO1, LO2, LO3	Yes	Sem 2, End

Specific Learning Resources

- Lecture Theatre or Classroom with Multimedia Facilities including Blu-Ray and Surround Sound (5.1 or similar)
- Large screen for projection (e.g. Lecture Theatre)
- CD/DVD resources (shown in lectures and/or available on loan from University of Essex and Colchester Institute Libraries)
- Reference books and journals (available on loan from University of Essex and Colchester Institute Libraries)

Reference List

Highly Recommended

Rees, A. (2017). A history of experimental film and video. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
 O'Pray, M. (2007). Avant-garde film: forms, themes and passions. London: Wallflower.
 Dixon, W. and Foster, G. (2007). Experimental cinema, the film reader. London: Routledge.

Recommended

Sitney, P. (2008). Eyes upside down. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
 Le Grice, M. (2001). Experimental cinema in the digital age. London: BFI
 Arnheim, R. (2009). Film as art. Berkeley: University of California Press.
 Mennel, B. (2012). Queer cinema. London: Wallflower.

Background Reading

Eisenstein, S. and Leyda, J. (1986). The film sense. London: Faber.
 Tarkovsky, A. and Hunter-Blair, K. (2012). Sculpting in time. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.
 Bazin, A. (2004). What Is Cinema? Vol. I. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
 Wees, W. (1992). Light moving in time. Berkeley: University of California Press.