



**Film and Screen Studies**

**Welcome Pack**

**2018-19**

## Welcome to Film and Screen Studies!

In the Film & Screen Studies part of your Joint degree programme you'll spend three years studying the cultural significance, history, industry and theories of film and screen media. This will allow to pursue your passion for film, TV, games or whichever screen media you're interested in, and to find out more about screen and creative industries. The information below gives you indication of the course content and the preparation that you can do before starting your BA Joint Honours Film & Screen Studies programme, as well as your timetable for welcome week and contact details for the course team.

## What will I be studying?

The BA Joint Honours Film & Screen Studies programme consists of 3 modules in year one; Altogether you will take 6 modules as a full-time student, but 3 of these will be in your other Joint subject.

<b>MED1072</b> Film Analysis	<b>MED1073</b> Studying Television	<b>MED1084</b> Media and the Creative Industries	Module from other Joint subject	Module from other Joint subject	Module from other Joint subject
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All of the Film & Screen Studies modules are compulsory and are generally timetabled for 2 hours classroom time per week. Classes will be small seminar groups. You will be expected to do preparation and research for classes and for assessments when not in classes. Each Film & Screen Studies module is assessed by coursework. Coursework might consist of standard academic essays, written assignments like scene analyses or secondary source reviews, individual and group presentations, practical projects, production folders and reflections on practical work. The overall assessment strategy is designed to introduce students to writing and thinking about screen media in different registers and formats, to teach and develop research, reading, and writing skills, to promote a reflective and self-critical approach, and to enable theoretical and practical approaches to film and television to inform one another. You will require general note taking equipment (paper-based or electronic - or a combination of both).

### **Who will support me in doing this?**

Each module has a module tutor to teach you classes in this particular subject. You will also have a Personal Academic Tutor (PAT) from the Film & Screen Studies team at the University. The PAT is your first contact if you have any questions or need support.

Each cohort of students (e.g. first year, second year) will have an elected student representative to gather feedback from the students on the programme and discuss this with staff.

### **What can I do to prepare before arriving at university?**

You will be given access to an online site on the university's Virtual Learning Environment (called NILE) for all materials and your timetable. You will need to check these regularly. NILE has information on **programmes** (e.g. *BA Film and Screen Studies*) and **modules** which are parts of the course/awards (e.g., *Film Analysis* is part of BA Film and Screen Studies). You will submit work here and participate in any e-learning or blended learning through NILE.

Leading up to the commencement of the course, watch and explore as much screen media—film, television, webisodes, apps, video games—as you can, and try finding out a bit about your favourite genres, directors, writers, creators, commentators, channels, production companies, fandoms. Browse some relevant web resources, such as:

- the [British Film Institute](#) (BFI)
- [Creative Skillset](#)
- the [Broadcast Audience Researchers Board](#) (BARB)
- [OfCom](#)'s research and data
- [Variety](#) trade magazine

In more general terms, welcome week will feature a series of sessions in order to get you orientated with university life, as well as a specific subject introductory session where you will meet the Film and Screen Studies course team, and receive more details and an outline of the course. The timetable at the end of this document provides all this information.

## Preparation in terms of the specific modules you will be studying:

### MED1072 Film Analysis

This module offers an introduction to thinking and writing about film. Using a selection of movies drawn from different genres, different countries, different historical periods and of different styles it introduces students to a range of filmmaking practices and interpretive approaches. The module will help develop your skills in film analysis and in evaluating critical writing about film. Examples are examined from a number of perspectives to demonstrate the range of approaches used in academic film studies and you will also look at different kinds of writing about film, from popular reviews to high-theoretical interrogation. To prepare for this module take a look at a range of film reviews and articles, such as

- [Rotten Tomatoes](#)
- [Empire](#) online
- The [Guardian](#) film reviews
- [Sight and Sound](#) magazine
- AMC [Film Site](#) by Tim Dirks

For academic preparatory reading, this text covers a lot of useful ground:

- Monaco, James. *How to Read a Film*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009 (4<sup>th</sup> Edition).

### MED1073 Studying Television

The purpose of this module is to develop your critical and analytical skills with the spotlight on television; what we watch, why do we watch it, and, in an increasingly digital world, how do we watch it? You'll be looking at some of the history of television and learning about how the industry works, focusing mainly on the UK but also the US and its impact on the industry globally. You'll learn about genres, trends and issues, and develop the ability to discuss and debate these issues from an academic and industry perspective. If you want to prepare in advance for this module the following books form a good introduction:

- Creeber, G. (2008), ed., *The Television Genre Book*. London: BFI.
- Thompson, Robert J. (1997) *Television's Second Golden Age: From Hill Street Blues to E.R.* Syracuse NY: Syracuse University Press.

And if you haven't seen them, take a look at:

- *Stranger Things* (2016-Present)
- *The Handmaid's Tale* (2017-Present)
- *Life On Mars* (2006-7)
- *Downton Abbey* (2011-16)

It would also be really useful to familiarise yourself with The Guardian's TV and Radio page (critical analysis and reviews) and the media industry news page.

## **MED1084 Media and the Creative Industries**

This module examines screen media in terms of convergence between e.g. film, television, videogames and the internet, as well as in terms of distinctions and differences in how these 'screens' have historically been produced, distributed and received. Students will be introduced to the various screen media, to debates surrounding convergence culture, and to the ways in which screen media consumption is embedded in everyday life, and the manner in which it relates to the broader creative industry that produces it.

If you wish to carry out some optional reading before the module starts it would be useful to take a look at the following books:

- Evans, Jessica and David Hesmondhaigh. *Understanding Media: Inside Celebrity*. Maidenhead: Open University Press, 2005.
- Jenkins, Henry. *Convergence Culture: Where Old and New Media Collide*. New York and London: New York University Press, 2008.
- Jenkins, Henry. *Textual Poachers: Television Fans and Participatory Culture*. Updated 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary ed. New York: Routledge, 2013.
- Newman, James. *Videogames*. London: Routledge, 2004.

If you have never seen them before it might be advantageous to watch:

- *Jurassic Park* (Dir. Steven Spielberg, 1993)
- *Avatar* (Dir. James Cameron, 2009)
- *The Simpsons Movie* (Dir. David Silverman, 2007)
- *The Matrix* (Dir. The Wachowskis, 1999)

And to familiarise yourself with the following TV shows:

- *The Big Bang Theory* (2007-Present)
- The rebooted *Doctor Who* (2005-Present)

**Contact details for Film and Screen Studies staff:**

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## Welcome Week Timetable:

(note that you will also receive a welcome week timetable for your other joint honours subject; some sessions may hence be present on both, at different times/days. You do not need to attend two sessions of the same thing! It is however imperative that you attend the specific introductory sessions for the subjects you are studying - in the case of Film and Screen Studies, this will be 9am-12noon in the Learning Hub, room 319.)



### BA (Joint Hons) Film & Screen Studies Welcome Week Timetable: 24-28 September 2018

Time	Monday 24/09/18	Tuesday 25/09/18	Wednesday 26/09/18	Thursday 27/09/18	Friday 28/09/18
9am	10am – 4pm Market Square, Northampton			9am – 12pm LH319 Film And Screen Studies Course Welcome!	9am – 12pm SN306  Social Belonging and Team Building Session For Joint Honors Students
10am	Student Union Day Join thousands of your fellow students at Northampton town centre's Market Square for Fresher Fortnight's biggest event!			An introductory session and outline of the course. Meet the course team, and your personal academic tutor (PAT)	
11am	The Freshers Fair brings together over 250 organisations including our Student Societies, Sports Clubs, Volunteer Projects, community and commercial partners. <a href="https://www.northamptonunion.com/events/freshers-union-day">https://www.northamptonunion.com/events/freshers-union-day</a>			Followed by: the Film and Screen Studies Stupendous and Spectacular Quiz!	
12pm	12pm -12:30pm SN101 (MORLEY ROOM)  Welcome session	12.30pm - 1pm SN101 (Morley Room)		Come and test your knowledge of film, TV, and all things Media!	
1pm	Run by Student Admin in mixed groups	Expectations of University Life delivered by the University's Student and Academic Services Colleagues		1pm - 1:30PM LH319	1pm-4pm SN108
2pm				Q AND A session for Joint Honours Students In the case of any issues, come and have them resolved here!	Skills Sessions for Joint Honours Students: Academic, Digital and Employability Skills
3pm	Rest of the day enrol and collect ID cards as needed.				Skills session delivered by the University's Learning Development, Academic Librarians and Changemaker Hub services