UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Programme/Subject Component Specification

Contents:

1.   Introduction

This specification describes a programme/subject component of the University of Liverpool. The programme/subject component operates in accordance with the Code of Practice on Assessment.

A copy of the relevant Handbook is available here: | N/A |

2.   Programme/Subject Component Summary Information

Programme/Subject Component Title:	Film Studies		
Code:	FILS/P		
Target Award:	MA	**Level:**	7
		Credit:	180

Other Target (or Entry) Awards:	**Award:**		**Level:**	
	Title:		**Credit:**	
	Code:			

	Award:		**Level:**	
	Title:		**Credit:**	
	Code:			

	Award:		**Level:**	
	Title:		**Credit:**	
	Code:			

Exit Awards:	**Award:**	Postgraduate Diploma	**Level:**	7
	Title:	Film Studies	**Credit:**	120

	Award:	Postgraduate Certificate	**Level:**	7
	Title:	Film Studies	**Credit:**	60

	Award:	Postgraduate Award	**Level:**	7

	Title:	Film Studies	**Credit:**	30

Programme/Subject Component Start Date:	September 2024
Duration and Mode of Study:	1 year (full-time) / 2 years (part-time)
Variations to Academic Regulations:	N/A
Awarding Body:	University of Liverpool
Curriculum Board:	Department of Languages, Cultures and Film
Campus:	Liverpool
Other contributors from UoL:	N/A
Teaching other than at UoL:	
Programme/Subject Component Leader:	Dr Abigail Loxham
External Examiner(s):	TBC
Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB):	N/A
PSRB Type:	N/A
PSRB Status:	N/A
Further Details (PSRB):	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmark Statement:	N/A
Tuition Fee Band:	See https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-taught/finance/fees/pgt-fees-2023-osi/
Additional Costs:	No textbook or software purchases are required for this programme. For students undertaking the placement module, there may be costs involved with travel for off-campus, in-person placements; some limited funding may be available from the department to cover local travel. For any placements further afield (e.g. in London), students will likely need to fund their own travel and if necessary also accommodation; again, some limited funding may be available from the relevant institution.
Cost (exact or approximate):	
OR Minimum Cost:	

Maximum Cost:	

Admission Criteria:	
	Applicants will have either a good second class (2.1 level) or a first class degree in Film, Languages or any other subject informed by an Arts and Humanities tradition. Alternatively, an applicant may have a degree in another subject and appropriate postgraduate experience and/or employment.

Graduates of non-UK universities will have to have achieved comparable results. All cases will be judged individually on the basis of information provided on the standard university application form. All applications are considered on their individual merit. At the time of application, discussion either in person or via email will turn to a possible research topic in order to match a student to a possible dissertation supervisor and to aid in choice of taught modules.

English language requirements: students who are non-native speakers of English will be required to have achieved an IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component PTE 69 with minimum scores of 69 in each component into 61 with minimum score of 59 in each component, (meeting the requirements for postgraduate study in the School of Histories, Languages and Cultures), or TOEFL iBT 88 or above with minimum scores in the components as follows: Listening and Writing 21, Reading 22, Speaking 23. Students with minimum scores will be strongly advised to undertake further English study. It is possible to come and study at Liverpool on the University's summer academic English programmes. |

3.   Aims

Overview:

The new MA programme in Film Studies aims to equip students with the essential theoretical, methodological and interpretative skills to enable them to engage with a wide range of film and media from different international contexts. Focussing on cultural theory, historical and geographical contexts, platforms of distribution and industries, and close formal analysis of films and other visual media such as television and photography, students will develop sophisticated approaches to current developments in the study of films and visual cultures from around the world. The MA will develop transnational and intercultural competencies and train students in research methodologies that will allow them to pursue independent research.

Educational Aims of the Programme/Subject Component:

1.	To explore up-to-date theoretical approaches, core methodologies and major research techniques in film studies;
2.	To apply sophisticated textual analysis to a variety of diverse films and other screen media;
3.	To develop wider research skills and methods of dissemination: posters, presentations, and writing for diverse audiences;
4.	To gain transferable skills in active listening and note-taking, critical thinking and analytical competencies;
5.	To develop an awareness and understanding of various sociocultural, economic and political issues and topics in the UK as represented by global film;
6.	To make effective use of library and other resources in order to develop knowledge and investigate different issues relating to film studies;
7.	To develop advanced academic writing skills for research and scholarly purposes which will enable students to conceptualise, undertake and complete an independent piece of research.

4. Programme/Subject Component Outcomes: Learning Outcomes and Skills

Please complete the relevant Learning Outcomes and Learning Outcomes Mapping tables below.

Learning Outcomes: Master's Degree	
No.	Description
1	Employ essential theoretical, methodological and interpretative skills to a variety of screen products from around the world;
2	Critically analyse current problems and new developments at the forefront of global film studies;
3	Critically analyse cultural theory, historical and geographical contexts, platforms of distribution and screen industries;
4	Interpret and evaluate a diverse range of world cinema critically, creatively and empathetically, while addressing questions of content, genre, authorship and audience;
5	Evaluate contemporary industrial production and distribution practices from around the world;
6	Identify, synthesize, critically assess and employ a wide range of up-to-date theoretical approaches, core methodologies and relevant research techniques in film studies;
7	Devise and complete independently a piece of individual research, culminating in the writing of a dissertation or a creative-critical project;
8	Demonstrate key research-related skills, such as literature searches, the formulation and evaluation of research questions and strategies, the ability to gather, select and organize large quantities of evidence, and the critical reading of texts.
9	Effectively utilise self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level, employ decision-making in complex situations (transferable employability skills);

Learning Outcomes: Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education	
No.	Description
1	Employ essential theoretical, methodological and interpretative skills to a variety of screen products from around the world;

2	Critically analyse current problems and new developments at the forefront of global film studies;
3	Critically analyse cultural theory, historical and geographical contexts, platforms of distribution and screen industries;
4	Interpret and evaluate a diverse range of world cinema, creatively and empathetically, while addressing questions of content, genre, authorship and audience;
5	Evaluate contemporary industrial production and distribution practices from around the world;
6	Identify, synthesize, critically assess and employ a wide range of up-to-date theoretical approaches, core methodologies and relevant research techniques in film studies.
7	Devise and complete independently a piece of individual research, culminating in the writing of a dissertation or a creative-critical project;

Learning Outcomes: Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education	
No.	**Description**
1	Employ essential theoretical, methodological and interpretative skills to a variety of screen products from around the world;
2	Critically analyse current problems and new developments at the forefront of global film studies;
3	Critically analyse cultural theory, historical and geographical contexts, platforms of distribution and screen industries;
4	Interpret and evaluate a diverse range of world cinema, creatively and empathetically, while addressing questions of content, genre, authorship and audience;
5	Evaluate contemporary industrial production and distribution practices from around the world;
6	Identify, synthesize, critically assess and employ a wide range of up-to-date theoretical approaches, core methodologies and relevant research techniques in film studies.

Learning Outcomes: UoL Postgraduate Award	
No.	**Description**
1	Employ essential theoretical, methodological and interpretative skills to a variety of screen products from around the world;
2	Critically analyse current problems and new developments at the forefront of global film studies;
3	Critically analyse cultural theory, historical and geographical contexts, platforms of distribution and screen industries;
4	Interpret and evaluate a diverse range of world cinema, creatively and empathetically, while addressing questions of content, genre, authorship and audience.

Mapping of Learning Outcomes:

Table 1

Modules:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
FILM501	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
COMM744	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
HLAC505	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓
HISP348	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Module Code	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
ITAL321	✓			✓	✓			✓	
GRMN330	✓			✓	✓			✓	
FREN337	✓			✓	✓			✓	
MUSI553	✓				✓			✓	
FILM502	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HLAC506							✓	✓	
FILM503		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FILM509									✓
COMM750		✓	✓					✓	
PHIL757								✓	✓
HISP344	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
MODL328	✓	✓	✓					✓	
FILM507						✓	✓	✓	

Skills Mapping

Please complete the Skills table below.

Skills; and
Categories: Learning (L), Research (R), Employability (E) or any combination of these

No.	Description	Category
1	Communicate in a variety of oral, written and visual media using the appropriate critical vocabulary relevant to film studies.	L, R, E
2	Develop ideas and construct arguments and present them in appropriate ways.	L, R, E
3	Demonstrate effective presentation and public speaking as well as intercultural communication skills to an advanced level.	L, E
4	Critically analyse and produce an advanced level of academic writing relating to the field of film studies	L,R,E
5	Employ advanced research skills and methodologies in order to conduct research, and develop and advance knowledge relating to film studies	L, R, E
6	Make effective use of library and other resources and tools in order to investigate different issues, reflect on various strategies and develop knowledge relating to film studies	L, R, E

Please complete the mapping table below.

Mapping of skills against modules in which they are delivered and assessed						
Module Code	1	2	3	4	5	6
FILM501	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
COMM744	✓	✓		✓		✓
HLAC505		✓				✓
HISP348	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
ITAL321	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
GRMN330	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
FREN337	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
MUSI553	✓	✓		✓		✓

Module	1	2	3	4	5	6
FILM502	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HLAC506		✓				✓
FILM503	✓	✓		✓		✓
FILM509		✓				✓
COMM750	✓	✓		✓		✓
PHIL757	✓	✓		✓		✓
HISP344	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
MODL328	✓	✓		✓		✓
FILM507	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

5.   Programme/Subject Component Structure

Year:	1 (full-time)						
Module Title		**Code**	**Credits**	**Level**	**Type**	**Semester**	**Pathways**
World Cinemas		**FILM501**	**30**	**7**	**Required**	**1**	
Screen Cultures B		COMM744	15	7	Optional	1	
Identity, Power and Society: Contemporary Critical Theory and Discourse		HLAC505	15	7	Optional	1	
Analysing Screen Music 1		MUSI553	15	7	Optional		
Researching Digital Cultures in the Americas		HISP348	15	6	Optional	1	
Italian Crime Stories: From Noir Fiction to Mafia FIlms		ITAL321	15	6	Optional	1	
The German Cinema Since 1990		GRMN330	15	6	Optional	1	
Cinema and Narratives of French Society		FREN337	15	6	Optional	1	
Work Placement		FILM509	15	7	Optional	1	
Global Film Cultures		**FILM502**	**30**	**7**	**Required**	**2**	
Research Skills		**HLAC506**	**15**	**7**	**Required**	**2**	
Screening Liverpool		FILM503	15	7	Optional	2	
Redefining Television		COMM750	15	7	Optional	2	
Philosophy of Film		PHIL757	15	7	Optional	2	
Screening Spain		HISP344	15	7	Optional	2	
Screening Texts		MODL328	15	7	Optional	2	
Dissertation		**FILM507**	**60**	**7**	**Required**	**3**	

Students take 30 credits of required modules and 30 credits of optional modules in semester one, and 45 credits of required modules and 15 credits of optional modules in semester two.

Students who choose FILM509 Work Placement are responsible in the first instance for arranging the placement; all placements are subject to approval by the Programme Leader.

A maximum of 30 credits below level 7 are permitted.

With permission from the Programme Leader, students may replace up to 15 credits of optional modules with Open Languages modules at FHEQ levels 4, 5 or 6; subject to approval, this may also include intensive language modules taught in the Department of Languages, Cultures and Film.

Year:	1 (part-time)						
Module Title		**Code**	**Credits**	**Level**	**Type**	**Semester**	**Pathways**
World Cinemas		**FILM501**	**30**	**7**	**Required**	**1**	
Global Film Cultures		**FILM502**	**30**	**7**	**Required**	**2**	

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS.

Year:	2 (part-time)						
Module Title		**Code**	**Credits**	**Level**	**Type**	**Semester**	**Pathways**
Screen Cultures B		COMM744	15	7	Optional	1	
Identity, Power and Society: Contemporary Critical Theory and Discourse		HLAC505	15	7	Optional	1	
Researching Digital Cultures in the Americas		HISP348	15	6	Optional	1	
Italian Crime Stories: From Noir Fiction to Mafia FIlms		ITAL321	15	6	Optional	1	
The German Cinema Since 1990		GRMN330	15	6	Optional	1	
Cinema and Narratives of French Society		FREN337	15	6	Optional	1	
Research Skills		**HLAC506**	**15**	**7**	**Required**	**2**	
Screening Liverpool		FILM503	15	7	Optional	2	
Work Placement		FILM509	15	7	Optional	2	
Redefining Television		COMM750	15	7	Optional	2	
Philosophy of Film		PHIL757	15	7	Optional	2	
Screening Spain		HISP344	15	6	Optional	2	
Screening Texts		MODL328	15	6	Optional	2	
Dissertation		**FILM507**	**60**	**7**	**Required**	**3**	

Students take 30 credits of optional modules in semester one and 15 credits of optional modules in semester two.

6. Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies and Methods

Learning and Teaching Strategies and Methods:

The learning and teaching are structured around history and theories of cinema globally and current developments in film studies (broadly understood to encompass television and streaming). The required modules, 'World Cinemas' and 'Global Film Cultures', permit students to engage in research-led learning and expose them to contemporary research through the expertise of the lecturers teaching on these modules. The required Research Skills modules ensures that they expand on the knowledge acquired to design their own research project in consultation with their supervisor. The required and optional modules, cover significant theoretical elements concerning the major trends, themes and methodological approaches in film studies. In the optional module Liverpool on Screen students will also have the chance to develop digital editing skills and become proficient in the use of archive footage, making use of Liverpool's rich filmic heritage.

A decolonised curriculum is central to our UG teaching and learning strategies and this will continue into the MA teaching. The core modules are taught by staff with research expertise in the global south, the MENA region, gender and sexuality, extremism on film and the choice of films reflects this. We extend this approach to our reading lists which, as far as possible, should include scholarship from the countries and locations that the films represent. HISP344 includes representations of disability on film and the importance of social class in screen representations of Liverpool forms a key part of the Screening Liverpool modules. Cross-departmental teaching means that an expert of India will teach a week on global film cultures and we pay attention to minority film cultures within Europe with expertise on Irish, Basque and Catalan films. Students will be supported in their choice of dissertation topics to consider their approach and how the topic might explore decolonial choices.

The modules on offer are diverse, dynamic and progressive in nature across both semesters. Teaching will be delivered through seminars, workshops, one-to-one supervision and complemented by screenings and discussions.

Lecturer-led teaching in modules that promote students' independent reading and research (e.g. 'Identity, Power and Society': 'Contemporary Critical Theory and Discourse') promote the development of skills that enhance student employability and future success, and the work placement module gives students the chance to apply these skills in the world of work and understand how their academic approach to film studies articulates to a working environment. Digital fluency is embedded across all modules in teaching strategies, approaches to film and (in some cases) assessments. Students have access to an editing suite for the development of moving image based projects.

Alongside the taught modules, the MA also involves supervised elements (e.g. Film Studies Work Placement module and the final dissertation/ AV essay) which support students to complete an

extended piece of writing as their final project through dedicated on-to-one supervision. Given the nature of the programme, independent study constitutes an important part of the MA course. In independent study time, students are required to carry out independent reading and research, based on the tutors' guidance.

Assessment Strategies and Methods:

A range of assessment strategies will be adopted for the MA programme. These include essays, presentations, reports, journals, conference-style presentations , short films, AV essays and the design of the final project. The evaluation of the student's learning aims to assess their knowledge, skills and competencies in various aspects of theory, visual analysis and creative practice and in specialised themes and topics.

The assessments are designed to be inclusive and attractive to the diverse student body taking the MA in Film Studies. With this in mind assessments on core modules are designed to allow formative assessments to be instrumental in the planning and design (and feed forward) for summative assessments. The final project is not limited to the traditional dissertation and students can opt, according to their expertise and interests, to complete an audiovisual submission with a shorter written element. The optional module FILM503 also has a choice of assessments along these lines with students able to produce an audiovisual essay. Material will be made available from the North West Film Archives for these students to work on authentic archive footage and in line with the Liverpool Curriculum's focus on authentic assessment. Assessment deadlines will avoid key religious and cultural holidays and students will be supported in individual staff feedback and consultation hours with any areas of assessment with which they feel they need additional support. Inclusivity is central to the range of assessments available to students; any presentations can be recoded with the choice to include the presenter or simply use a voiceover. Adaptations will of course be made for any students with support plans but we will also ensure that other protected characteristics are catered for in assessment design, deadlines and the different ways in which we provide feedback. The assessments are aligned with learning outcomes in the core modules such that analysis of key texts, comprehension of context are assessed across the formative and summative assignments.

These assessment strategies equip students with advanced theoretical, methodological and interpretative skills in the study of film and other forms of screen media and enable them to critically analyse current problems and new insights at the forefront of global film studies.

7.   Employability

The MA in Film Studies provides the theoretical knowledge, practical insights as well as transferrable skills (e.g. public speaking, academic writing, active listening, critical thinking, intercultural awareness and analytical skills) for a successful career in a variety of sectors and different roles. In line with the Liverpool Curriculum Framework the authentic and research-connected teaching and development of digital skills mean graduates are equipped to pursue further training or employment in the creative and digital industries, and the cultural sector more broadly. The combination of theoretical and practical training on the MA programme also paves the way for advanced students wishing to conduct postgraduate research (e.g. PhD) in Film, Media or Screen Studies. Input from national Museums Liverpool and Film Buddy, a service HLC

subscribe to that links students with media and film industry professionals, have been, and
continue to be, key to the development of the programme.

8.   Inclusivity and Diversity

The programme's design, structure and content are consistent and
Comply with the University's Diversity and Equality policy
(https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/intranet/hr/diversity-equality/)

Within the Department there is a diverse student population consisting of a wide ethnic mix,
home/EU and international students and a number of mature students. The annual subject review
(ASR) identifies where there may be particular difficulties placed on a particular group of students
allowing for any processes to ensure equality can be put into place.

The Department strives to ensure that all students, whatever their background, have a good range
of opportunities to enhance their employability and skills throughout their programme of study.

UAP Approved: 18 July 2024