

Course Start

Course Start is independent learning you need to complete as a fundamental part of your introduction to the course. It should take you approximately 5 hours to complete.

Course Name	Film Studies A Level
How this Course Start fits into the first term of the course	The course start work focuses on close analysis of film form and narrative in one of your key short film texts. These elements will be studied and applied to further short and feature films in your first term. You are also creating ideas for your main coursework film production task which will be developed and completed in the first year of the course
How will my Course Start learning be used in lessons?	The film ideas you create will be the foundation of your production coursework and the short film analysis will be discussed and used as a template for analysis of the other key short films you will be studying in class.
Course Start learning objectives	• Developing understanding of the key elements of film form and narrative • Analysing how meaning and response is created through film form and narrative • Introducing and developing skills in narrative construction
Study skills	• Independent Learning • Meeting deadlines • Creative skills • Analytical skills

Expectations for: A LEVEL FILM STUDIES

Our specification is: Eduqas GCE A Level Film Studies

What this course involves
Planned study - 5 hours weekly to support lesson content
70 % Examination content (American / British / Global / Documentary / Silent / Experimental Film)
30% Coursework (create/plan an original short film)
Analysis of Film Form and how audience responses is created
Research and analysis of production/social /historical contexts of films
Study of Representations in film
Specialist subject areas : auteur , narrative, ideology, spectatorship , critical debates and filmmakers' theories

Course Start Tasks

(to be completed over the summer and handed in at your first lesson)

TASK 1:

Watch the short film 'Stutterer' online:

<https://youtu.be/4dU1Y0YYdxQ>

Write a short essay outlining what you think the main message of the film is and what techniques it uses to communicate that message. (750 words minimum)



Focus on some of the following key elements of **film form** :

- **Cinematography** : camera shots such as close ups ,wide shots , camera movement e.g pan, lighting and colour
- **Editing** : how and why one shot follows another, or how the sequence is structured
- **Mise-en-scene** : background, setting, objects , props or costume
- **Sound** : music, dialogue ,voiceover , sound effects etc.
- **Performance** : body language, facial expression, posture etc.

TASK 2:

Based on films and genres you know well, create **synopses** (summaries) for **two original short (5 minute) films you could create** (200 words approx)

- This should include detail about the following :
- Narrative and plot
- Use of genre codes and conventions
- Key characters

You can also refer to other films that have influenced your ideas and can include visual images. You will be “pitching” these ideas to your “producer” (teacher) when you start the course and they should be the starting point for your coursework.

Contact David at daa@varndean.ac.uk if you have any questions and we look forward to seeing you at your next Film Studies lesson