GCSE to A LEVEL

Summer Project

Name:
Subject: A Level Film Studies

The purpose of this A Level Summer project is to introduce you to studying this subject at A Level standard. You will need to complete 10 hours of study on each subject every week, 4½ in class with your teacher and the rest as independent learning. Therefore, it is important that you enjoy this subject and that you start to practice your study skills as early as possible. Some subjects have significant maths content (for example business, psychology, economics); others require strong essay writing skills (for example history, English). Think about the study skills and underpinning knowledge you will require in this subject – not just the title.

If after completing this project you think this may not be your ideal choice, you can ask to transfer to another subject at the start of term, as long as you have the entry requirements and it fits alongside your other choices on the A Level Matrix (timetable). If you do decide to change subject, you will be required to complete the Summer project for your new choice too.

This is also your first taste of Flipped Learning and elements will be used within your first week of lessons.

Please ensure your name, student number and subject are clearly noted on each page and bring it with you to hand in at Induction.

We hope you enjoy this project as you start your A Level journey.

Have a good summer and we look forward to seeing you in September.

HOW TO SUBMIT:

Please print your completed project and bring a copy with you to Induction in a clearly labelled plastic wallet.

If you don't have access to a printer, electronic copies can be emailed as a Word or PDF attachment to ALevel_FilmStudies@chichester.ac.uk with the email clearly labelled 'Film Studies Summer Project' prior to Induction.

A Level Film Studies Summer Project

Congratulations on gaining a place on the course and we look forward to seeing you. We believe you have made the right choice and will have an exciting time learning and developing towards your creative career.

To help you get prepared and to ensure that you are successful we have put some information together for you. Please read through carefully and follow the instructions. Some courses have a suggested reading list, directions to forums and tutorial sites and projects for you to engage with over the Summer. If you have any questions about these, do not hesitate to call 01243 786 321 x 2599 for guidance.

Course Details:
Course code: **CMED002D1A**
Course leader: **Calum Strachan**
Contact: **Calum.strachan@chichester.ac.uk** or **01243 786321 Ext 2599**

Summer/Summer Task

Over the summer you are required to complete a short introductory assignment that you are to bring with you to Induction.

The assignment consists of three parts outlined below…

Part 1

One of the first things that you will learn about in A Level film studies are the *key elements of film form*. These include *cinematography, editing, sound, mise-en-scene* and *performance*.

The first part of the summer project is to *fill out the Key Elements of Film Form Visual Glossary* that is attached to this document, researching some of the most significant examples of *cinematography, editing, sound, mise-en-scene and performance* that you would be expected to know about to succeed in A Level Film Studies. For each technique you should find an image, screenshot or example from a film that demonstrates that technique in action to show your understanding.

Websites such as *Studiobinder.com* and *Nofilmschool.com* include useful definitions and examples of the different key elements that you can use to help you complete this task.

Part 2

For the second part of the summer project students need to *watch the first close study film that they will study as part of the course, Pan's Labyrinth* (Guillermo Del Toro, 2006). The film is not currently available on Netflix but can be bought or rented on a number of digital platforms, including Amazon Prime, Google Play and YouTube. Students need to ensure that they have watched the film in full in order to complete and fully understand part 3 of the summer project.

Part 3

The final part of the assignment is to *write a 500-word analysis focusing on how cinematography, editing and sound are used in the opening sequence of Pan's Labyrinth*. The scene can be found on YouTube using the link below. Students need to analyse from 0:00 – 1:54 of the sequence for this task.

Pan's Labyrinth opening scene (youtube.com)

Your analysis should focus on identifying different examples of cinematography, editing and sound that have been used in the sequence as well as commenting on how the key elements that are used *generate meaning and provoke the audience to respond in particular ways* (e.g. generate sympathy for characters, create excitement, build tension etc.). In your analysis try to be as specific and as detailed as you can be in identifying different examples of the selected key elements being used in the opening sequence and you should try to use appropriate key elements terminology in your analysis when writing about different examples of cinematography, editing and sound. You should write about key elements in the order that they appear in the sequence and your work should end with a conclusion that summarises how meaning and response are generated in the sequence.

YOU MUST HAND THE SUMMER WORK IN AT INDUCTION IN SEPTEMBER

Suggested weekly tasks:
Film is an exciting and ever changing/developing industry with interesting announcements happening on an almost daily basis. As a Film Studies student you will want to keep up to date with the latest industry developments, such as developing new technologies, new films going into production, box-office performances etc. In order to keep as up to date as possible there are a number of useful websites that you should check regularly, such as IMDb.com, BoxOfficeMojo.com and Metacritic.com as well as many more. Magazines and journals such as Empire magazine and Sight & Sound are excellent ways of keeping up to date with the latest developments in film. Any interesting or relevant articles, websites, data that you find you should collect in a case studies pack that can be used for revision later in the year.

Key Elements of Film Form – Visual Glossary

Cinematography

Element	Definition/how it is used in films and by filmmakers to create meaning	Visual Example
Shot types/shot distances		
Close up		
Extreme close up		
Long shot		
Extreme long shot/ wide shot		

Medium shot		
Medium close up		
Two-shot		
Camera Angles and Perspectives		
Eye level shot		
High angle shot		

Low angle shot		
Canted angle/dutch tilt		
Overhead shot		
Aerial shot		
Over the shoulder shot		
Objective/subjective shots		

Camera movements		
Pan/whip pan		
Tilt		
Dolly shot		
Tracking shot		
Zoom/crash zoom		

Push in/pull out		
Crane shot		
Arc shot		
Roll		
Ped/boom shot		
Handheld		

Steadicam		
Colour and lighting		
High-key lighting		
Low-key lighting		
Hard lighting		
Soft lighting		

Three-point lighting (key light, fill light, back light)		
Front lighting		
Back lighting		
Side lighting		
Under lighting		
Top lighting		

Saturated colour		
De-saturated colour		

Editing

Element	Definition/how it is used in films and by filmmakers to create meaning	Example
Cut		
Dissolve		
Fade in/fade out		

Cross cutting/ parallel editing		
Cutaways and insert shots		
Wipe		
Jump cut		
Match cut		

Eye line match cut		
Shot/Reverse shot		
Montage		

Sound

Element	Definition/how it is used in films and by filmmakers to create meaning	Example
Diegetic sound		
Non-diegetic sound		

Sound FX		
Foley sound		
Ambient sound		
Parallel sound		
Contrapuntal sound		

Motif		
Sound bridge		
Pleonastic sound		
Unmotivated sound		

Mise-en-scene

Element	Definition/how it is used in films and by filmmakers to create meaning	Example
Colour		
Setting		
Props		
Costume		
Hair/make-up		
Staging		

Performance

Element	Definition/how it is used in films and by filmmakers to create meaning	Example
Non-verbal communication (figure, expression, movement)		
Verbal communication (pace, pitch, stress, tone, volume, accent, pausing)		
Realist performance		
Classical performance		
Formalist performance		