



# FILM & MEDIA

COURSE GUIDE 2017

“The medium is the message.”

MARSHALL MCLUHAN

# Media Studies

## Exam Board AQA

### Why choose Media Studies at Carmel?

Twenty years ago the media could be summed up as mainly print (newspapers and magazines) and audio/visual (television, radio and films). Audiences today have access to a huge number of additional channels that let us receive news, entertainment, information and advertising. This new digital media includes the Web and mobile phones - providing us with access to blogs, social networking sites, emails and apps. A Level Media Studies is designed to enhance your enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of the media and its role in your daily life. The course introduces you both to media ideas and the practice of production, which gives you the chance to develop a real understanding of media platforms, the contemporary media landscape and the influential role of the media in today's society.

### What will the course involve?

- Skills of enquiry, critical thinking, decision making and analysis
- Application of critical approaches to media issues
- Develop an appreciation and critical understanding of the media and their role both historically and currently in society, culture, politics and the economy
- Develop an understanding of the dynamic and changing relationships between media forms, products, media industries and audiences
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the global nature of the media
- Application of theoretical knowledge and specialist subject specific terminology to analyse and compare media products and the contexts in which they are produced and consumed in order to make informed arguments, reach substantiated judgements and draw conclusions about media issues
- Engage in critical debate about academic theories used in Media Studies
- Appreciate how theoretical understanding supports practice and practice supports theoretical understanding
- Demonstrate sophisticated practical skills through creative media production

The course will recognise the fundamental relationship between theory and practice, requiring you to apply and develop your understanding of the media through both analysing and producing a range of media products across different media platforms – Broadcast/e-media/print.

### How will I be assessed?

The A Level assessment involves 30% coursework and 70% examination.

### Where does this course lead?

Because Media Studies develops so many skills, you are attractive to employers in a wide range of people-orientated careers. A Media Studies qualification will enable you to study Media Studies in Higher Education at degree level or contribute towards the points needed for entry to a range of other degrees in other subjects.

Students who have gained Media at Advanced Level have gone onto careers/courses in IT, Digital Media, Media Production, Journalism, Public Relations, Business and Management to name a few!



*Ellie Forsyth at the 2015 BFI Documentary Residential in London*

### Our students say...

**During my time at Carmel I have enjoyed the productive ethos and atmosphere in my lessons and throughout college in general.**

I also have the freedom to use my own methods of working, planning and revising when it comes to working towards an assessment/project. I particularly enjoy studying Media as it introduces you to a wide ranging perspective of the media world we live in, as well as developing creative and technical skills on complex software such as Photoshop. I would recommend choosing Media as it challenges you to question and analyse media in greater detail whilst providing the knowledge and technique to create your own media products such as magazines & short films. I have been really impressed by the high quality teaching and resources on offer at Carmel, which will benefit me greatly when moving on to university and into freelance journalism in the future.



**Paul Toner**  
Lord Derby Academy

**Studying:**  
Media Studies, English Language, History

# Film Studies

Exam Board WJEC

## Why choose Film Studies at Carmel?

A Level Film Studies offers students the opportunity to develop and apply a range of high-level skills, via the following:

- Critical analysis and interpretation of films, developing and communicating a range of sophisticated points of view
- Evaluation of films from a range of perspectives
- Synthesis of knowledge
- Practical application of knowledge in coursework
- Technical skills and knowledge

## What will this course involve?

The new specification for Film Studies offers students a number of exciting innovations. Students will be offered an in-depth and rigorous course of study, which requires them to develop knowledge and understanding of:

- A diverse range of film, including documentary, film from the Silent Era, experimental film and short film
- Film practices from a historical, national and global context
- Films' relationships with social, political, cultural, historical and technological contexts
- How films generate meanings and responses
- Film as an 'art' form
- The concept of 'spectatorship'
- Relevant theories of film consumption and production

The course will also offer students the opportunity to complete coursework through pursuing either a filmmaking or a screenwriting option. Films studied will be selected from a choice offered by the exam board, but will all be classed as "critically recognised, culturally and historically significant" - winners and nominated films at major awards (Oscars, BAFTAs) and major film festivals (Cannes, Berlin, Venice and Sundance), critically celebrated by the academy of film scholars in the BFI's and AFI's ten yearly polls.

The course will provide a rigorous grounding in the techniques of film construction-cinematography, mise-en-scene, editing and sound. It will also cover the overarching concepts of genre, narrative, representation and ideology.

## How will I be assessed?

Assessment by examination will form 70% of a student's final marks on the course, with a further 30% contributed by coursework. The external exam will take place at the end of the two year course, whilst coursework will be completed during the second year. In addition to external examination and assessment, students will be regularly assessed throughout the two years of the course. Most of this assessment will be in the form of essays.

## Where does this course lead?

Around half of A Level Film students usually progress to directly relevant HE courses, with another third progressing to HE courses in wider creative arts/humanities areas.

## What support will I receive?

Every student will have access to extra tutorials run by experienced staff; these may be to enhance existing knowledge or just to give extra support to you if you have been absent or if you are finding a topic difficult to access. In the build up to examinations, regular revision sessions are offered to you to ensure you are fully prepared. All students have access to the dedicated computer suite when it is not being used for classes. Lessons are dynamic and engaging and all students are also encouraged to develop their skills of independent learning.

## Our students say...

Carmel has all of the resources a student could need to succeed, and the support that my tutors offer has helped me to progress on my courses and prepare for exams.

Film Studies allows me to be creative in coursework yet analytical when essay writing, and the topics that we study are interesting and informative. Taking part in talks from the British Board of Film Classification was very insightful and was great in involving students in the real world of film and its production and exhibition. There are lots of opportunities to take part in all aspects of film around the college, from applying for the BFI scheme alongside studying, or becoming involved in enrichments such as Film Club. I hope to study film production at university once I leave Carmel, and I know that my hard work will produce results which allow me to do so.



**Jody Squirrel**  
Wade Deacon

### Studying:

Film Studies, Government & Politics, Photography





Student coursework

## What other activities can I get involved in?

The department arranges a number of visits to local cinemas. A number of Film students have taken part in BFI Academy events where they have gained invaluable experience with industry professionals. Affordable trips are offered each year, and our regular visiting speakers include an examiner from the BBFC in London and a Screenwriting lecturer. Students have visited the University of Central Lancashire and have been to Media City in Salford. Links with local universities are now established and further collaborative ventures will be taking place each year. Enrichment activities such as Film Club have proved very popular and students also often use the department equipment and facilities to produce their own portfolio of work. A trip to New York will also take place in February 2017.

## How successful are Carmel's Film & Media students?

Film and Media Studies are very popular and successful courses with consistently very good results. An increasing number of our students each year leave to enter careers or further study in media or related areas. Past students have become journalists, camera operators for Sky, PR consultants/advertising executives, film makers, digital media managers and have entered a host of other such media related careers.

Media Studies	2013		2014		2015		2016	
% Pass Rates	AS	A2	AS	A2	AS	A2	AS	A2
A*-B	38%	40%	44%	65%	28%	65%	34%	63%
A*-E	100%	100%	98%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

  

Film Studies	2013		2014		2015		2016	
% Pass Rates	AS	A2	AS	A2	AS	A2	AS	A2
A*-B	58%	42%	62%	50%	58%	81%	73%	78%
A*-E	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

## What are the entry requirements for these courses?

**Film Studies** – GCSE grade 5 in English Language.

**Media Studies** – GCSE grade 5 in English Language and grade B in Media Studies (if studied) and an interest in using IT.

## Meet the Tutors

### Kath Hopkins

Head of Media Studies and Senior Moderator for AQA Media Studies  
kath@carmel.ac.uk

### Paul Morrow

Head of Film Studies  
Paulm@carmel.ac.uk

## Stretch and Challenge

All Film and Media students are encouraged to enter film and journalism competitions to develop their skills and build up portfolios for future applications to university and employment. Film and Media students also contribute to the marketing of departments in college such as write-ups for educational visits as well as filming dance and theatre performances.

## The truth about Film & Media Studies

If you opt to do Film and/or Media Studies at Advanced Level, you might find some people who refuse to take it seriously and even try to put you off. Here are some of the most common myths you may hear and some facts to counter them:

- Myth 1: Media Studies is easier than other subjects**  
 Fact: Grade A at Film and Media Studies A Level is only awarded to about 12% of candidates.
- Myth 2: A certificate in Film and/or Media A Level is not worth the paper it's written on; universities won't recognise it.**  
 Fact: Universities accept Film and/or Media Studies in the same way that they accept English or History or any other Arts or Humanities A Level.
- Myth 3: You just put your feet up in Film and Media Studies and watch films.**  
 Fact: You may not even see a whole film during the course!
- Myth 4: In Film and Media Studies you don't have to do any writing.**  
 Fact: There is as much writing in Film and Media Studies as there is in English and other essay based subjects.
- Myth 5: High achievers shouldn't do Film and /or Media Studies.**  
 Fact: It should be clear that anyone should take the opportunity to do Film and Media. One of our Film students went on to study at Cambridge University!

## More Information

The Exam Board websites contain details of the full course specifications:  
 Media Studies: [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk) Film Studies: [www.wjec.org.uk](http://www.wjec.org.uk)



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