

Programme Specification

Award and title: BA (Hons) Film Studies and Media

<i>School:</i>	Humanities
<i>Subject area:</i>	Media and Film Studies
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2025-26
<i>in the month(s) of</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Certificate of Higher Education Film Studies and Media Diploma of Higher Education Film Studies and Media BA (Ord) Film Studies and Media
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Film Studies and Media English Literature and Film Studies American Studies and Film Studies
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Undergraduate periods of study ¹ for full time & part time
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	Yes
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	Yes
<i>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i>	Yes

Introduction and special features

Joint Honours programmes give students the opportunity to combine two subjects from a range of areas in a structured way. The selected pairings are designed to complement one another and allow you to have a significant amount of choice and flexibility in relation to your learning experience. In addition, Joint Honours will engage you in a range of learning and teaching experiences and assessment opportunities.

Film Studies

The Film Studies programme is specifically designed to help you become more independent, confident and digitally literate film and screen scholars, conversant in a range of theoretical, analytical, and practical approaches to this exciting and ever-evolving field of study. BA (Hons) Film Studies at York St John is part of a thriving academic and creative industries community housed within the School of Humanities. The programme has been designed to support your development in research, analysis and digital versatility. You will be given the opportunity to understand, analyse and engage with film studies through modules which examine the history of the study of media and screens as it both engages with and informs the contemporary landscape. The knowledge, skills and contextual information gained will be put into practice as your work on a variety of research-led projects.

¹ The standard period of study will apply unless otherwise stated

Media

With the media modules you will undertake on this pairing, if you aspire to engage your community and the world through media, research and creative input then this is the joint honours degree for you. Key aspects of the programme are:

- An exploration of the 'de-colonialization' of Media Studies which offers views of the media in a global context.
- A commitment to exploring power relationships in contemporary media; the ways in which media are central to some of the burning social and ideological issues of our time (e.g. environmental sustainability, globalisation, perspectives of national identity).
- A creative and analytical immersion with technologies, project management and communication skills, resulting in opportunities for you to raise your profile as an employable graduate in the media and creative industries.

A number of exciting initiatives you will experience include:

1. The integration of our *Neutral* project as an e-publication driven by the talent and dedication of our students. Here is our latest edition: <http://neutralmagazine.com/>
2. A vibrant schedule of excursions, field trips and events which allow you to explore media cultures on a local and national level.
3. Dedicated mentoring across levels from professional designers (including our own programme dedicated member of staff) and experts who will help you to develop your technical ability and creative capacities.

We will help cultivate your skills to help enhance your future chances of employment.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage.

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Recognition of prior learning \(RPL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensatable (NC) or compensatable (X)
At Level 4, you must take 60 credits in each of your subjects						
FIL4002M	4	1	Filmmakers on Film	20	C	X
MED4004M	4	1	Research in Practice	20	C	X
MED4005M	4	1	Media Culture and Society	20	C	X
FIL4005M	4	2	Film History: Industry, Technology, and Exhibition	20	C	X
MED4007M	4	2	Mediated Identities	20	C	X
MED4002M	4	2	Critical Perspectives	20	C	X

At Level 5, you must take 60 credits in each of your subjects						
FIL5004M	5	1	European Cinema	20	C	X
MED5004M	5	2	Media Enterprise	20	C	X
FIL5005M	5	1	Imaginary Worlds: Researching Science Fiction	20	O	X
FIL5002M	5	1	Film and the American Imagination	20	O	X
MED5001M	5	1	Taste, Controversy and Culture	20	O	X
MED5002M	5	1	Music and Media	20	O	X
MED5003M	5	1	Visual Culture	20	O	X
FIL5003M	5	2	Gothic and Horror	20	O	X
FIL5006M	5	2	Movies at the Margins	20	O	X
MED5005M	5	2	Life Online	20	O	X
MED5006M	5	2	Globalisation, Media and Sustainability	20	O	X
At level 6, you must take 40 credits in each of your subjects and a 40 credit Dissertation						
MED6001M	6	1&2	Dissertation	40	C	NC
FIL6002M	6	1	Documentary Film Studies	20	C	X
FIL6003M	6	2	Transnational Cinema	20	C	X
MED6002M	6	1	Futures	20	O	X
FIL6001M	6	1	Animations	20	O	X
MED6005M	6	2	Media Spaces	20	O	X
MED6006M	6	2	Gender and Sexualities: Issues and Debates	20	O	X
MED6004M	6	2	Pop Americana: Mass Culture and National Identity	20	O	X

Please note that not all options may be available every year as they depend on student demand and staff availability.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensable. A non-compensable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level (with a mark of 40 in order to progress).

Film Studies

Programme aim(s)

1. Provide you with a comprehensive grounding in the concepts, theories, methodologies, issues and debates pertaining to Cinema and Screen Studies.
2. Examine the evolution of Film as cultural expression and as a medium in dialogue with other forms.
3. Facilitate personal development, and enable you to develop key academic, generic, cognitive and technical skills which will enhance employment potential.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 4

- 4.1 Gather and organise information from recommended sources in the discipline of Film Studies.
- 4.2 Identify and practice the key elements (e.g., Essay writing, portfolio building, presentation, etc) for both short-term and long-term academic development.
- 4.3 Demonstrate awareness of foundational conceptual, theoretical, and historical perspectives relating to cinema and its cultural contexts.
- 4.4 Demonstrate competence in the analysis and evaluation of film texts.
- 4.5 Consider and evaluate some of the relevant skills and learning requirements for working independently and in groups.
- 4.6 Communicate effectively using a range of key skills appropriate for the audience and purpose.

Level 5

- 5.1 Demonstrate a critical understanding of the key theories and concepts relating to film and screen studies.
- 5.2 Critically analyse data and information relevant to study of film.
- 5.3 Demonstrate effective research skills and methodologies in preparation for advanced level study.
- 5.4 Effectively communicate information, arguments, and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- 5.5 Make appropriate selections of materials and use them analytically and critically in the exploration of cinema.
- 5.6 Develop professional and career skills and utilise key skills in the context of work-related learning.

Level 6

- 6.1 Demonstrate the appropriate application of advanced research skills.
- 6.2 Deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry to the key strands of the degree.
- 6.3 Demonstrate independence, innovation, and entrepreneurial skills in working and academic practices.
- 6.4 Devise and sustain arguments, assumptions and abstract concepts and effectively engage with such matters as a critical thinker.
- 6.5 Demonstrate a complex understanding of subject-relevant information, ideas, and arguments effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- 6.6 Synthesise and apply complex theoretical perspectives and concepts to a range of situations and issues relevant to film studies.

Learning, teaching and assessment

Film Studies

We provide a positive learning environment. You will experience a range of teaching styles and settings and a variety of approaches to learning. Activities may include small group work, discussions, guided reading, and library-based research leading to feedback alongside seminars and tutorials (one-to-one meetings with a tutor). In addition, there is an emphasis on independent study outside of formal teaching sessions. This 'supported open learning' will include directed reading tasks, student-based project work, engaging with the online virtual learning environment and encouragement to attend guest lectures and research seminars. This also includes opportunities to engage with professionals, industry experts and others who will instruct you as the course progresses.

Our range of resources are designed to enable you to work collaboratively and to build your knowledge beyond guided reading so that you can engage with key debates within the approaches to theory. Film Studies is a rich and varied discipline and, as such, you must be able and willing to explore the depth of knowledge and experience at your disposal. You will study popular cultural forms as well as more extreme and experimental forms of cinema. This will require you to undertake reflective learning.

York St. John University adopts the position that students are co-producers of knowledge rather than just recipients of it. We see students as an important aspect of a student-centred approach. As such we encourage you to explore wider film culture including York's rich cinematic culture and special events and resources such as the Aesthetica Short Film Festival and the Yorkshire Film Archive.

The programme will help you to develop your research skills and methodologies. For example, at Level 4 you will be introduced to essential research practices in the module 'Research in Practice' and the foundational skills learned here are applicable throughout the whole degree. At Level 5 this will be further explored in modules such as 'Imaginary Worlds', 'Movies at the Margins', and 'Gothic and Horror', where methodologies such as the compiling of a literature review, comparative critical writing and preparing for presentations are honed. At Level 6 you will be instructed on how to develop a literature review for the 40-credit 'Dissertation' module and assisted in creating a research file on modules such as 'Gender and Sexualities'.

Throughout your studies you will have an opportunity to undertake learning that is related to the careers that you may wish to pursue in the future. In Level 5, you will study a specialist module, *Media Enterprise*, that will allow you to reflect upon a range of possible future careers. Guest speakers from the Media and academic world will provide relevant learning experiences.

Media

Programme aim(s)

1. To encourage students to develop an informed and critical understanding of key themes and debates within Media and Communications
2. To enhance students' development as independent learners and media scholars
3. To support students in developing a range of transferable skills to equip them for employment and lifelong learning
4. To develop an ability to reflect critically on the process of researching, writing, analysing, and forming an academic argument
5. To provide a supportive learning environment that meets the needs of a diverse set of learners
6. To enhance students' development of appropriate skills in communication, analysis, collaboration, research, and self-management

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 4

- 4.1 Gather and organise information from recommended sources in the discipline of Media and Communication.

- 4.2 Identify and practice the key elements (e.g. essay writing, portfolio building, presentation, etc.) for both short-term and long-term academic development.
- 4.3 Demonstrate awareness of foundational conceptual, theoretical and historical perspectives relating to Media and its cultural contexts.
- 4.4 Demonstrate competence in the analysis and evaluation of a range of Media texts.
- 4.5 Consider and evaluate some of the relevant skills and learning requirements for working independently and in groups.
- 4.6 Communicate effectively using a range of key skills appropriate for the audience and purpose.

Level 5

- 5.1 Demonstrate a critical understanding of the key theories and concepts relating to the study of Media and Communication.
- 5.2 Critically analyse data and information relevant to study Media and Communication.
- 5.3 Demonstrate effective research skills and methodologies in preparation for dissertation level study.
- 5.4 Effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- 5.5 Make appropriate selections of materials and use them analytically and critically in the exploration of Media.
- 5.6 Demonstrate professional and career skills, and utilise key skills in the context of work-related learning.

Level 6

- 6.1 Apply the appropriate application of advanced research skills.
- 6.2 Deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry to the key conceptual strands of the degree; Transnational Media, Media and Power; Media in the Creative Industries; Media and Identity.
- 6.3 Demonstrate and apply independence, innovation and entrepreneurial skills in both employability focussed and academic practices.
- 6.4 Devise and sustain arguments, assumptions and abstract concepts and effectively engage with such matters as a critical thinker.
- 6.5 Apply a complex understanding of subject-relevant information, ideas and arguments effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- 6.6 Synthesise and apply complex theoretical perspectives and concepts to a range of situations and issues relevant to Media and Communication studies.

Learning, teaching and assessment

Throughout the BA (Hons) Media Joint Honours programme, your learning will be structured so that your knowledge and skills are continually developed across the three levels of study. You will take part in lectures, seminars, workshops, task focused activities, field trips and excursions and informative engagement with media practitioners.

Modules may include your working during a Semester with lecturers in one capacity and then with a designer in another to produce a creative and critical portfolio. At other times, you will work in seminars and then visit places (e.g. art galleries) and events (such as a short film festival) to see and reflect upon media in action.

This is enhanced by three distinct features:

- Research informed teaching where experts in their subjects will work with you and develop your knowledge

- A schedule of tutorial support where you will gain advice and guidance on how to progress academically
- Technology enhanced programme instruction from experts that will help you to learn how to use media as a critical and creative tool

You will be assessed in a variety of ways including essays, portfolios, individual and group presentations (for example, voice-over commentaries on video essays using iPads and tablets), poster presentations, industry focussed 'proofs of concept', interactive e-portfolios (using platforms such as Mahara ePortfolio or blogging sites), creative visual pieces. All of these will be introduced at Level1 and then developed throughout the degree.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [general regulations](#) for undergraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensable.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University mission and values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Date written / revised: July 2020

Programme originally approved: July 2020