

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Film Theory

Unit code: DW9R 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed as an introduction to the concepts and purpose of critical analysis. It employs and develops ideas and issues explored in film theory to enable candidates to analyse and discuss products/texts in a manner that will assist them in the creation and evaluation of their own projects.

On completion of the Unit candidates should be able to:

- 1 Identify key concepts explored in film theory.
- 2 Analyse film theory.

Credit points and level: 1 HN Credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*).

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: The knowledge and skills required to access this Unit are at the discretion of the centre delivering the Unit. It would be beneficial if candidates had good communication skills and practical research ability.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill of Communication at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

Assessment: An holistic approach to assessment is encouraged for this Unit. Outcomes 1 and 2 may be assessed together.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, knowledge and/or skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Identify key concepts explored in film theory

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Key concepts
- ◆ Key terms
- ◆ Language
- ◆ Presentation

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ Deliver a presentation of film/audio visual excerpts illustrating at least six key critical/analytical concepts explored in film theory, accompanied by an explanatory talk/commentary of at least 5 minutes, or a written and illustrated report of a minimum of 200 words. This should be supported by a research portfolio/work-book/digital portfolio showing references, choice of examples, and research notes.

Assessment guidelines

Outcome 1 should demonstrate candidates' recognition of the concepts, terms and tools with which they can construct their own critical apparatus.

All evidence should be contextualised with both contemporary and historic film theory within their written oral/visual presentation. The candidate should also demonstrate that they have identified each of the key concepts and collated them to show that they have an understanding of the application of these. Use of examples to illustrate points should be encouraged.

Individual or group assessment may be appropriate depending on the chosen style of delivery.

If presented as group work then the research portfolio/work-book/digital portfolio should include evidence of individual contributions to the final submission.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Film Theory

Outcome 2

Analyse film theory

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Key concepts
- ◆ Key terms
- ◆ Language
- ◆ Research
- ◆ Presentation

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ A written report of at least 400 words or an audio/video or computer based presentation of at least 10 minutes duration, evaluating a chosen subject. Specific excerpts from the chosen subject must be used to illustrate points.

Assessment guidelines

Outcome 2. The candidate should demonstrate application of the tools of critical analysis to a chosen subject. The candidate should demonstrate they have the ability to contextually analyse existing computer art and design products within their chosen area.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	DW9R 34
Unit title:	Film Theory
Superclass category:	KA
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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Film Theory

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit employs and develops ideas and issues explored in film theory to enable candidates to analyse and discuss products/texts in a manner that will assist them in the creation and evaluation of their own projects.

This can be achieved through detailed research and analysis where the emphasis is not placed on an accumulation of facts, but focuses on the practical application of knowledge and skills.

This Unit can be based on a range of products/texts or a specific item. The Unit can be delivered as a general introduction to the concepts of film theory, criticism and analysis. It can be integrated as a tool for evaluation of the candidates own project.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

The concepts explored could be taken from the following examples: eg *genre, narrative, fiction, non-fiction, representation, metaphor, allegory, context, codes, conventions, iconography, denotation and connotation, visual grammar, deconstruction, subjectivity, objectivity, aesthetics, culture, society, audience expectation and processes of engagement*. However, this is not intended as an exhaustive or definitive list.

As an introductory Unit it may be beneficial to encourage group work for Outcomes 1 and 2. It would be expected that candidates use examples, both found and created, to illustrate points. Thus, practical activities can be introduced for example:

LO1 examples could be sourced from films/television programmes, or candidates could create scenes/re-enact well known scenes that illustrate key terms, such as *genre* or *visual grammar*.

- ◆ the evidence for LO2 could be in the form of a commentary on the candidate's own project work or on exemplar products/texts in a similar form to the director's commentary found on many DVDs

LO1 emphasises the importance of developing the candidate's communication skills through the preparation and delivery of an oral presentation. This encourages candidates to explore imaginative and effective ways of researching, structuring and presenting information using the language of film theory. A written report may also be used as a means of assessment.

There may be an opportunity for integration of Outcome 2 with a number of other design Units. An integration assessment matrix should be devised.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Film Theory

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Although communication skills are not formally assessed candidates will be expected to analyse and evaluate complex information on key concepts explored in different types of films. They should produce and present evidence responses accurately and coherently, using recognised industry terminology and formats. All information should be effectively presented. Oral presentations should demonstrate that candidates are able to:

- ◆ collate, organise and structure accurate information effectively
- ◆ signpost key points
- ◆ select and produce support materials for their impact
- ◆ use appropriate non-verbal communication techniques
- ◆ respond to any questions in a way that progresses communication

Open learning

This Unit could be delivered by distance learning. However, it would require planning by the centre to ensure the sufficiency and authenticity of candidate evidence.

Online materials could be used to deliver the Unit in conjunction with a well defined brief taking account of any factors specific to open learning. Feedback from the lecturer and peers could come from the formation of an online group where discussions relevant to the Unit could take place.

Consideration should be given to learning methodology and planning and resources required for ongoing candidate support, assessment and quality assurance. A combination of new and traditional authentication tools may have to be devised for assessment and re-assessment purposes. For further information and advice, please see *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning* (SQA, publication code A1030).

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Alternative Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs*, which is available on SQA's website: **www.sqa.org.uk**.

General information for candidates

Unit title: Film Theory

The purpose of this Unit is to provide you with a background knowledge of film theory through lecturers, screening, class discussions and activities, and your own research. It will help you analysis film and other moving image material, and to understand your chosen discipline and place it in an historical and contemporary context. You will be expected to undertake the research activities and analysis listed below:

- ◆ source and research information on films and film theory/criticism
- ◆ document and reference your evidence on films and film theory/criticism
- ◆ identify key concepts in film theory
- ◆ define key terms used in film theory
- ◆ analyse films and film theory
- ◆ apply critical analysis to a specific area of film and film theory
- ◆ communicate an understanding of films and film theory/criticism

For Outcome 1 you will demonstrate that you can identify key concepts in film theory from a wide range of films and audiovisual screenings. You will produce an illustrated presentation of at least 5 minutes duration or a written report of at least 200 words. You will also gather and document your research of this area in a folder/work book/digital portfolio showing references, choice of examples, and notes.

For Outcome 2 you will produce a written report 400 words or an illustrated presentation of at least 10 minutes which demonstrates that you can apply critical analysis to a chosen subject effectively.