Cinematic Justice

Module Code   4LLAW016X
Module Level   4
Length             Session One and Session Two, Three Weeks
Site              Central London
Host Course             London International Summer School
Pre-Requisite            None
Assessment           100% Essay

Summary of module content

Criminal justice has historically proved a valuable source for film makers. From I am a Fugitive from a Chain Gang (1932) to contemporary films such as Conviction (2011) various aspects of criminal justice have been portrayed. In addition to pure fiction real life events such as the imprisonment of the Guildford 4 (In the Name of the Father) have formed the basis for dramatic works. This module analyses films illustrating the criminal justice system of the UK and abroad to discover what these portrayals tell the viewer about criminal justice. The module uses the films themselves as the primary source of material coupled with academic commentary.

NOTE: this module may include additional costs for museum tickets.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the module students will have demonstrated:

- The ability to work under direction and take responsibility for their own work in an adaptable, and reflective manner.
- A broad knowledge and understanding of how aspects of criminal justice are portrayed in film;
- A research strategy that encompasses the identification and selection of a range of authoritative and reliable materials.
- Effective interpersonal and communication skills, specifically with regard to written and digital competencies.

Course outcomes the module contributes to: None

Indicative syllabus content

The exact content of the syllabus will be determined by the material selected for viewing. Topics may include the following with these and other films.
Prison films


Criminal trials and lawyers

And Justice for All, Suspect, A Time to Kill, A Dry White Season, The Firm, Twelve Angry Men, My Cousin Vinny, Inherit the Wind, Witness for the Prosecution, Judgement at Nuremberg.

Police films


Vigilante justice

Death Wish, Gran Torino, The Boondock Saints, Taxi Driver, Harry Brown, The Brace One, Walking Tall,

Miscarriages of Justice


Teaching and learning methods

This module runs in a block mode over a period of a number of weeks in a summer school. Films will be watched in class and be the primary material supported with directed reading. Time will be set aside for seminar discussion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity type</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Student learning and teaching hours*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Scheduled</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Scheduled</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>Scheduled</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project supervisor</td>
<td>Scheduled</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstration</td>
<td>Scheduled</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Classes and workshops</td>
<td>Scheduled</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervised time in studio/workshop</td>
<td>Scheduled</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fieldwork</td>
<td>Scheduled</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External visits</td>
<td>Scheduled</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work based learning</td>
<td>Scheduled</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Scheduled</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>48</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placement</td>
<td>Placement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent study</td>
<td>Independent</td>
<td><strong>152</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total student learning and teaching hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>200</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*the hours per activity type are indicative and subject to change.
Assessment rationale
The 3000 word essay allows students to consider one area of the relationship of film and the law in depth. Students are expected to draw upon visual material in the construction of the work.

Assessment criteria
- Academic content: This includes analysis of the question, response to the question, evidence of logical argument and appropriate examples.
- Presentation: structure, spelling/punctuation, grammar and overall care.
- Depth and breath of research and ability to reference work correctly.
- Ability to elucidate arguments/points in a succinct manner and within the word limit.

Assessment methods and weightings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of assessment</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Qualifying mark %</th>
<th>Qualifying set</th>
<th>Assessment type (e.g. essay, presentation, open exam or closed exam)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay 3000 words</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Synoptic assessment
NA

Sources
Course Text

Further Reading
Websites
Jc2m (Journal for Crime Conflict & the Media)
http://www.jc2.co.uk

Journal of Criminal Justice and Popular Culture
http://www.albany.edu/scj/icjpc

Oklahoma City University Law Review
http://www.okcu.edu/law/lrev.htm#articles
Picture Justice
http://www.usfca.edu/pj

Tarlton Law Library *Law in Popular Culture - Feature Films* (2000) (filmography with just over 600 films listed)
http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/lpop/legstud.htm
West Virginia University College of Law