

# Auteur Direction

Course Code: SMLM 041

Please note: places are limited to 10 on this module and are offered only to students taking the MA in Film Studies. These will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

## Brief Description:

Auteur Direction is an optional course for students enrolled on the MA Film Studies programme. The rationale underpinning the course is to offer students the opportunity to apply their theoretical knowledge of film studies, in particular auteur theory, and consider this understanding through *critical practice*; where practical work is used to demonstrate, test and develop theoretical understanding in film.

Students enrolled on the course will initially prepare an academic presentation setting out the features which characterize the director as an auteur, especially in relation to directing technique, and this will form the basis for a short production by the student which demonstrates or tests aspects of these features of authorship. Each student will shoot and edit their production with the co-operative support of their colleagues. The completed production and an essay will be submitted for assessment. The essay will be based on the research prepared for the presentation and discuss the completed production in an appropriate theoretical context.

Students are not expected to have practical skills in production before starting this course, but a suitable theoretical background is essential for successful participation and completion.

## Outcomes:

- Develop an understanding of issues related to auteur theory in relation to a specific director
- Develop practical production skills in relation to critical knowledge
- Develop an understanding of production technique in relation to camera, sound and lighting.
- Develop presentation skills within an academic context
- Demonstrate the ability to present and discuss ideas within the context of an academic presentation
- Demonstrate the ability to operate production equipment to a basic level of competence
- Demonstrate the ability to organize and plan a short production
- Demonstrate the ability to work co-operatively and creatively to fulfill the requirements of the course
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze theoretical issues related to auteur theory through the framework of critical practice

## Assessment Regime:

Auteur Production Project: comprising one 3 to 5 minute production, 50% of total assessment for the course, and one 3,000 word essay, 50% of total assessment for the course. 16.67% of the overall degree

## Delivery:

**3 hrs per week:** lectures and presentations, training and practice: taught, scheduled sessions

**Independent Group work:** Due to the requirements of production you will need to spend time, approximately 3 to 6 hours each work on production activities with your group. This will consist of planning, shooting and editing activities.

## Indicative Reading:

Caughie, John (Ed.) (1981), *Theories of Authorship* (London: Routledge/BFI).  
 Lapsley, Robert (1988), *Film Theory: an Introduction* (Manchester: Manchester University Press).  
 Nichols, Bill (Ed.) (1976), *Movies and Methods: Volume I* (Berkeley: University of California Press).  
 Cook, Pam (Ed.) (1985), *The Cinema Book* (London: BFI).

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