



St Benet Biscop Sixth Form

Personal Development

Media Studies

1. MOOCs

Film Distributers Association – Film Distribution: Connecting Films with Audiences

Discover how your favourite films make it to your local cinema or television screen, through the film distribution process.

A Beginner's Guide to Film Genres

Explore what genre means in film and how it shapes both the narrative and the audience's response to the story on screen.

Film Distributers Association- How to Read a Film

Delve into the devices used to create meaning in film as you gain a deeper understanding of what we see on screen.

University of Newcastle, Australia- Understanding Media: Introduction to Critical Media Literacy

How does the media affect us? Find out and improve your media literacy by learning how to analyse media, film and culture.

UCL- Why We Post: The Anthropology of Social Media

Discover the varying uses of social media around the world and its consequences for politics, relationships and everyday.

University of Strathclyde- Gender Representation in the Media

Explore how women are represented in the media and reflect on what it means for contemporary society and culture.

University of Kent- Introduction to Journalism and Reporting

Explore what makes good journalism as you learn about its origins and where news reporting stands today.

European University Institute- Culture in the Digital Age

How has the cultural sector been affected by technology? Has tech created new opportunities? Get answers with this course.

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God intends us to be.*



2. Key Theorists

Listed below are the theorists whose work will be fundamental to your study of the media. Research their theories, read their media criticism and watch videos of their analysis. Practice applying their theories to the media you consume.

Media Language:

Roland Barthes
Steve Neale
Claude Levi-Strauss
Jean Baudrillard
Tzvetan Todorov
Vladimir Propp

Representation:

bell hooks
Stuart Hall
David Gauntlett
Judith Butler
Paul Gilroy
Liesbet van Zoonen

Audience:

George Gerbner
Clay Shirky
Henry Jenkins
Albert Bandura
Stuart Hall

Industry:

Curran and Seaton
Livingston and Lunt
David Hesmondhalgh

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3. Books

The Chaos Machine – Max Fisher

The Chaos Machine is the story of how the world was driven mad by social media. The election of populists like Trump and Bolsonaro; strife and genocide in countries like Myanmar; the rampant spread of COVID-19 conspiracy theories as deadly as the pandemic itself; all of these are products of a breakdown in our social and political lives, a breakdown driven by the apps, companies and algorithms that compete constantly for our attention.

Unlikeable Female Characters – Anna Bogutskaya

How bitches, trainwrecks, shrews, and crazy women have taken over pop culture and liberated women from having to be nice.

Unlikeable Female Characters traces the evolution of highly memorable female characters, from Samantha Jones as "The Slut" in Sex and the City to the iconic Mean Girl, Regina George, examining what exactly makes them popular, how audiences have reacted to them, and the ways in which pop culture is finally allowing us to celebrate the complexities of being a woman. Anna Bogutskaya, film programmer, broadcaster, and co-founder of the horror film collective and podcast The Final Girls, takes us on a journey through popular film, TV, and music, looking at the nuances of womanhood on and off-screen to reveal whether pop culture-and society-is finally ready to embrace complicated women.

The Fall: The End of the Murdoch Empire – Michael Wolff

Meet the Murdochs and the disastrously dysfunctional family of Fox News. Until recently, they formed the most powerful media and political force in America. Now their empire is cracking up and crashing down.

20 Things That Would Make The News Better – Roger Moseley

From one of British broadcasting's most experienced voices comes the definitive exploration of Britain's news output and what must change if we are to avoid a future of uninspiring news, uninformed decision-making and accountability-dodging politicians.

The Vanity Fair Diaries – Tina Brown

The sizzling diaries of Tina Brown's eight spectacular years as editor in chief of Vanity Fair paint a riveting portrait of the flash, dash and follies of the eighties in New York and Hollywood.

The Vanity Fair Diaries is the story of an Englishwoman barely out of her twenties who arrives in Manhattan on a mission.

The Universal Journalist – David Randall

'Easily the best introduction to being a reporter' - Press Association

This is the only 'how to' book on journalism written by writers and editors who have operated at the top level in national news. It has long been the go-to book of advice for young reporters.

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The BBC: Myth of a Public Service – Tom Mills

The BBC is an important and timely examination of a crucial public institution that may threaten the very thing it was meant to uphold: democracy.

Disney War – James B Stewart

The dramatic inside story of the downfall of Michael Eisner - Disney chairman and CEO - and the scandals that drove America's best-known entertainment company to civil war.

The Last of the Action Heroes – Nick De Semlyen

Drawing on candid interviews with the action stars themselves, plus their collaborators, friends and foes, The Last Action Heroes is a no-holds-barred account of a period in Hollywood history when there were no limits to the heights of fame these men achieved, or to the mayhem they wrought, on-screen and off.

MCU – The Reign of Marvel Studios – Joanna Robinson, David Gonzalez, Gavin Edwards

Marvel Entertainment was a struggling toymaker not even twenty years ago. Today, Marvel Studios is the dominant player both in Hollywood and in global pop culture. But what accounts for its stunning rise?

Glossy: The Inside Story of Vogue – Nina-Sophia Miralles

Glossy is a story of more than a magazine. It is a story of passion and power, dizzying fortune and out-of-this-world fashion, of ingenuity and opportunism, frivolity and malice. This is the definitive story of Vogue. Vogue magazine started, like so many great things do, in the spare room of someone's house. But unlike other such makeshift projects that flare up then fizzle away, Vogue burnt itself onto our cultural consciousness.

Blood, Sweat and Pixels – Jason Schreier

While many of these books are about more distant history, in Blood, Sweat and Pixels, Jason Schreier writes about many more modern-day titles with a focus on the enormous human cost it takes to make almost every game you love, whether indie or AAA, and how unsustainable that may be for the industry as a whole. There are stories about games from Destiny to Diablo 3 to Dragon Age: Inquisition in here, and all are worth a read.

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Fiction:

Tomorrow, and Tomorrow and Tomorrow – Gabrielle Zevin

Sam and Sadie meet in 1987. Playing together brings joy, escape, fierce competition - and a special friendship. Then, all too soon, that time is over and they must return to their normal lives. When the pair spot each other eight years later in a crowded train station the spark is immediate, and together they get to work on what they love - creating virtual worlds to delight, challenge and immerse

The Devil Wears Prada – Laura Weisberger

When Andrea first sets foot in the plush Manhattan offices of Runway she knows nothing. She's never heard of the world's most fashionable magazine, or its feared and fawned-over editor, Miranda Priestly – her new boss.

Yellowface – Rebecca F Kuang

When Athena dies in a freak accident, June steals her unpublished manuscript and publishes it as her own under the ambiguous name Juniper Song. But as evidence threatens June's stolen success, she will discover exactly how far she will go to keep what she thinks she deserves.

Reader Player One – Ernest Cline

It's the year 2044 and the real world has become an ugly place. We're out of oil. We've wrecked the climate. Famine, poverty and disease are widespread. Like most of humanity, Wade Watts escapes this depressing reality by spending his waking hours jacked into the OASIS, a sprawling virtual utopia where you can be anything you want to be, where you can live and play and fall in love on any of 10,000 planets.

The Circle – Dave Eggers

When Mae is hired to work for the Circle, the world's most powerful internet company, she feels she's been given the opportunity of a lifetime. Run out of a sprawling California campus, the Circle links users' personal emails, social media, and finances with their universal operating system, resulting in one online identity and a new age of transparency.

1984 – George Orwell

In 1984, London is a grim city in the totalitarian state of Oceania where Big Brother is always watching you and the Thought Police can practically read your mind.

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4. Films and Documentaries

The Social Network – Rating 12

In 2003, Harvard undergrad and computer genius Mark Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenberg) begins work on a new concept that eventually turns into the global social network known as Facebook. Six years later, he is one of the youngest billionaires ever, but Zuckerberg finds that his unprecedented success leads to both personal and legal complications when he ends up on the receiving end of two lawsuits, one involving his former friend (Andrew Garfield). Based on the book "The Accidental Billionaires."

Sorry We Missed You – Rating 15

Directed by Ken Loach and written by Paul Laverty- a 'sequel' to 'I, Daniel Blake'. Ricky and his family have been fighting an uphill struggle against debt since the 2008 financial crash. An opportunity to wrestle back some independence appears with a shiny new van and the chance to run a franchise as a self-employed delivery driver. It's hard work, and his wife's job as a carer is no easier. The family unit is strong but when both are pulled in different directions everything comes to breaking point.

Kes – Rating – U

A 1969 film directed by Ken Loach. Bullied at school and ignored and abused at home by his indifferent mother and older brother, Billy Casper (David Bradley), a 15-year-old working-class Yorkshire boy, tames and trains his pet kestrel falcon whom he names Kes. Helped and encouraged by his English teacher Mr. Farthing (Colin Welland) and his fellow students, Billy finally finds a positive purpose to his unhappy existence, until tragedy strikes

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever – Rating 12A

Queen Ramonda, Shuri, M'Baku, Okoye and the Dora Milaje fight to protect the kingdom of Wakanda from intervening world powers in the wake of King T'Challa's death. As the Wakandans strive to embrace their next chapter, the heroes must band together with the help of War Dog Nakia and Everett Ross and forge a new path for their nation

Dracula – Rating 15

Hammer Horror from 1958. Jonathan Harker unsuccessfully tries to stake and kill Count Dracula at the latter's remote castle in Transylvania but becomes one of the count's victims. The vampire later insinuates himself into the Harker family, seeking more blood and vengeance. The only person who may be able to protect them is Dr. van Helsing, Harker's friend and fellow vampirologist, who is determined to destroy Dracula, whatever the cost.

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Queen and Slim – Rating 15

Directed by Melina Matsoukas (director of 'Formation'). Slim and Queen's first date takes an unexpected turn when a policeman pulls them over for a minor traffic violation. When the situation escalates, Slim takes the officer's gun and shoots him in self-defence. Now labelled cop killers in the media, Slim and Queen feel that they have no choice but to go on the run and evade the law. When a video of the incident goes viral, the unwitting outlaws soon become a symbol of trauma, terror, grief and pain for people all across the country.

The Social Dilemma

This documentary-drama hybrid explores the dangerous human impact of social networking, with tech experts sounding the alarm on their own creations.

Disclosure

Directed and produced by Sam Feder, the film follows an in-depth look at Hollywood's depiction of transgender people and the impact of their stories on transgender lives and American culture.

Miss Representation

Written and directed by Jennifer Siebel Newsom, the film exposes how mainstream media contribute to the under-representation of women in positions of power and influence in America. The film challenges the media's limited and often disparaging portrayals of women and girls, which make it difficult for women to achieve leadership positions and for the average woman to feel powerful herself.

Page One: Inside The New York Times

With the Internet surpassing print as the main news source and newspapers all over the country going bankrupt, PAGE ONE chronicles the transformation of the media industry at its time of greatest turmoil.

Manufacturing Consent: Noam Chomsky and the Media

A film about the noted American linguist/political dissident and his warning about corporate media's role in modern propaganda.

Catfish

Catfish is a documentary about Nev Schulman and his romantic relationship with a woman that he knows only through Facebook. The film was highly acclaimed when it came out in 2010. This is a documentary that comments on how technological advancement is responsible for the postmodern world of today.

The September Issue

The September 2007 issue of Vogue magazine weighed nearly five pounds, and was the single largest issue of a magazine ever published. With unprecedented access, this film tells the story of legendary Vogue editor in chief Anna Wintour and her larger-than-life team of editors creating the issue and ruling the world of fashion.

This Changes Everything

An examination of sexism in the Hollywood film industry, the film interviews a variety of actresses and women filmmakers on their experiences in the industry.



4. Podcasts

The Media Podcast

Weekly British podcast mostly on news and trends around media in the UK, though events from around the world are also discussed regularly. Guest list includes journalists from biggest outlets as well as media professors and former ministers. Every episode usually has two or three guests, making it not a one-on-one interview but an interesting discussion.

The Media Show (BBC Radio 4)

Another British media podcast, this time from the BBC itself. Every episode contains a discussion with several guests, including the now-former Culture minister, professors, producers, and correspondents on a specific topic, mostly in the British context, but sometimes with a more global focus.

Media Voices

Media Voices offers "a weekly look at all the news and views from across the media world." The three hosts start each episode with recapping weekly journalism news, followed by an interview with an interesting media thinker or media leader.

Media Insider

Brought to you by The Fix Media, an excellent source of media news from across the European media landscape with episodes on media innovation and digital strategy.

The Kicker

'Encouraging excellence in journalism in the service of a free society' by Columbia Journalism Review.

Better News

Brought to you by 'the broccoli of media-focused podcasts', It's All Journalism, this show is produced in partnership with the American Press Institute.

How to Fail with Elizabeth Day

Not journalism specific, but useful pep talks and how to bounce back from failures.

The Tip Off

Behind the scenes of investigative journalism in the UK, journalist's perspective, aiming to dig into topics of concern to reporters

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5. YouTube Channels

The Media Insider

Helping you write, analyse, and enjoy films and media! If you are a film/media student, teacher or enthusiast, here is where you will find videos that go into detailed analysis of how films are made, and how to make films yourself!

Studio Binder

Studio Binder is a production management solution that helps video and photo productions create call sheets, shot lists, shooting schedules, breakdowns, storyboards, mood boards and more.

Indy Mogul

Indy Mogul is a source for independent filmmakers. They make videos to help you make better films. Hosted by Ted Sim and Dave Maze -- the duo aims to decode the struggles of modern filmmaking, gear, and the skills and experiences of influential creatives all around the world — including directors, cinematographers, producers, editors, VFX artists, and digital creators.

6. Magazines

Vogue
Empire
The Big Issue
The New Yorker
GQ
Vanity Fair
Play
Film Stories

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