

A Level Film Studies

Please complete the below work in preparation for your start at Franklin this September.

This work should be brought with you to enrolment and your first day at Franklin.

If you aren't attending enrolment on site please just bring this when you first come to the college in September.

This should be completed in time for enrolment, work can be in a written or electronic format.

Any questions please contact our admissions department – admissions@franklin.ac.uk

Auteur theory is THE film theory, the one most associated with Film Studies. This is the theory of the director as the author. It is an incredibly popular theory and has given rise to the cult of the director. Explore the ongoing debate - Is a film considered a product of the individual (director) or a collaborative (the whole cast and crew) effort? Make your own decision about whether or not you agree with auteur theory using your research and examples to justify your own point of view.

TASKS

1. Research the arguments for and against Auteurship/Auteur theory

- Firstly find out what the basic ideas of auteur theory are (use the links below as a starting point)
 - **The Origins of Auteur Theory** - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfHnuZqtV68&feature=emb_title
 - **What is Auteur Theory?** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzTRjsefTXc>
- a. Then make a for/against table or list to show the opposing arguments (Hint – think about collaboration vs. the individual)

2. Choose a director and find out about their auteur characteristics

- a. Identify recurring genres, themes, mise en scene, cinematography, sound (music/soundtrack style), editing techniques, and work with specific actors. Try to find out and explain why these elements recur and how that makes them an auteur.
 - i. Hint - Make this piece of work as visual as you can – use lots of images to ‘paint a picture’ of your chosen directors auteur characteristics.

Here’s a list of directors that are good to look at as an auteur (pick one or choose your own)

Tim Burton	Stanley Kubrick	Quentin Tarantino	Edgar Wright
Alfred Hitchcock	David Fincher	Danny Boyle	John Carpenter
Spike Jonze	Wes Anderson	Guillermo del Toro	Wes Craven
Christopher Nolan	Damian Chazelle	Shane Meadows	Mike Leigh
Ken Loach	Spike Lee	The Coen brothers	Martin Scorsese

3. Produce a 500-800 word essay answering the following question:

- a. **“The auteur director is the main creative force and controlling presence on a film.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? Refer to your chosen director to support your points.**
 - i. Hint 1 - Aim for three points to have a balanced argument – 2 points backing up your opinion and one point arguing against it.
 - ii. Hint 2 - Make sure you conclude your essay with a summary of your key points.
 - iii. Hint 3 – Use P.E.A.L. structure (Point/Example/Analysis/Link back to the question)

