



**Waseley  
Sixth**

# A Level Film Studies Bridging Course

## A Level Film Studies Bridging Work.

Please complete the below work in preparation for your start at Waseley this September. This work should be brought with you to your first Film Studies lesson.

Auteur theory is THE film theory, the one most associated with Film Studies. This is the theory of the director as the author and it 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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfHnuZqtV68&feature=emb_title)

#### **What is Auteur Theory? -**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWzPluXUwpl> ○
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzTRjsefTXc&t=39s> ○
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXv41Ja3h4>

- 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) Watch at least one film by this director.
- b) Identify recurring genres, themes, style, elements of cinematography, sound (music/soundtrack style), editing techniques, and work with specific actors.
- c) Try to find out and explain why these elements recur and how that makes them an auteur.

**Here's a very short list of directors that are good to look at as examples of auteurs (pick one or choose your own). They are all directors on the Film Studies A Level specification and you may well be studying some of their films.**

Alfred Hitchcock	Ridley Scott	David Lynch	Barry Jenkins
Jordan Peele	Celine Sciamma	Christopher Nolan	Edgar Wright

### **3. Research the term *mise-en-scène* - what does it mean / refer to? □ What are the key elements of mise-en-scène?**

- Use the link below to gain a greater understanding of this key term.

<https://cinepunked.com/2022/12/08/a-quick-guide-to-analysing-visual-style-mise-en-scene>

### **Suggested Reading List:**

1. Watch some films from outside Hollywood's stretch – maybe some films with subtitles, or some big British hits like "Lock, Stock and 2 Smoking Barrels"

2. Because of the lockdown many academics and institutions have made excellent Film/Media courses and resources available for free, you might want to have a look at some of this and take advantage of it:

- **The 22 Rules of Storytelling** from Pixar - should be of use for screenwriting:  
<https://nofilmschool.com/2013/12/pixars-22-rules-of-storytelling-free-ebook>

- **Every Frame a Painting** is a series of video essays on different aspects of film form and how they're used by filmmakers:  
<https://m.youtube.com/user/everyframeapainting/featured>

- **Sundance Film Festival** have made many of their (usually very expensive) online filmmaking workshops available for free - give them a look, a great opportunity:

[https://collab.sundance.org/master-classes?utm\\_source=fb&utm\\_medium=feed\\_org&utm\\_campaign=free\\_master\\_classes&fbclid=IwAR0KIcsIR5Nchvmy3UW4fPlxnOclclJEk83KS3CpnYEkOe4wCBUvOxbdXu0](https://collab.sundance.org/master-classes?utm_source=fb&utm_medium=feed_org&utm_campaign=free_master_classes&fbclid=IwAR0KIcsIR5Nchvmy3UW4fPlxnOclclJEk83KS3CpnYEkOe4wCBUvOxbdXu0)

- **Mark Cousins - 40 Days to Learn Film**

Mark Cousins is a renowned film historian, his two hour video lecture "40 Days to Learn Film" is accessible and does what it says on the tin:

<https://vimeo.com/399407221>

**Futurelearn** have collaborated with a number of renowned institutions (including the BFI) to create a range of excellent free online Media and Film related courses, highlights below:

- **Gender Representation in the Media:**

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/gender-and-the-media>

- **Introduction to Screenwriting:**

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/screenwriting>

- **National Film and Television School - Explore Filmmaking: From Script to Screen:**

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/explore-filmmaking>

- **Film Distribution - Connecting Films With Audiences:**

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/film-distribution>