

# FILM STUDIES A LEVEL

*wider reading*

Era	About	What to watch
Earliest Film (1890's)	Taking advantage of the invention of roll film by American company Eastman in 1884, Frenchman Louis Le Prince produced very short moving image sequences with a camera he had invented himself. These including footage of a horsedrawn tram crossing a bridge in Leeds made in 1888.	The Lumière Brothers – Workers Leaving the Lumière Factory, Lyon (1895): <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEQeIRLxaM4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEQeIRLxaM4</a>
German Expressionism (1920's)	German Expressionism was one of the most significant of the modernist film movements of the silent film era. Inspired by developments in painting (there was a German Expressionist movement in art as well as filmmaking) and theatre set design in the 1910s and 1920s, German Expressionist filmmakers developed a style of filmmaking that was much less naturalistic and much more expressive, stylised and exaggerated than the “idealised realism”	Robert Wiene – The Cabinet of Doctor Caligari (1920): <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAtpxqajFak">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAtpxqajFak</a>
Soviet Montage (1920's)	Beginning in 1917 Russia underwent a political revolution that saw the replacement of a feudalistic political system based around what was close to an absolute monarchy with a communist system of government.	Sergei Eisenstein – The Battleship Potemkin (1925) <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4mgZNobkQ2s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4mgZNobkQ2s</a>

<p>American Silent Cinema (1910's &amp; 1920's)</p>	<p>Comedy was one of the most significant genres of early cinema perhaps partly because the silence of the new medium lent itself to visual tricks and sight gags and partly because of the popularity of vaudeville theatre at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries.</p>	<p>Buster Keaton - Steamboat Bill Jr. (1928): <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9QPfiLuQ9c">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9QPfiLuQ9c</a></p>
<p>Classic/Classical Hollywood (1930-1960)</p>	<p>By 1930 film as a medium was nearly 40 years old and many of its conventions were becoming established. In its early history film had developed in many locations around the world but as the 20th century progressed it was the American film industry that became dominant.</p>	<p>Michael Curtiz - Casablanca (1942) Orson Welles – A Touch of Evil (1958) Alfred Hitchcock – Vertigo (1958)</p>
<p>Film Noir (1940's &amp; 1950's)</p>	<p>Film noir is a body of unconventional crime films released in the 1940s and 1950s and made in a style that was largely at odds with the classical Hollywood style. Most original noirs were made by the American film industry although some key films were made outside of it.</p>	<p>Robert Siodmak - The Killers (1946): <a href="https://player.bfi.org.uk/rentals/film/watch-the-killers-1946-online">https://player.bfi.org.uk/rentals/film/watch-the-killers-1946-online</a></p>
<p>Italian Neo Realism (1940's)</p>	<p>Neo means new, so when we talk about Neo-Realism we are talking about a “new realism”, a film movement which originated in Italy immediately after the Second World War.</p>	<p>Vitorio De Sica - The Bicycle Thieves (1948): <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_yHGZ2RK500">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_yHGZ2RK500</a></p>
<p>World Film (1950s-1970's)</p>	<p>The end of the colonial era that followed the Second World War lead to a growing sense of national assertiveness as former colonies gained their independence, an attitude that was increasingly reflected in the filmmaking of these countries.</p>	<p>Satyajit Ray – Pather Panchali (1955): <a href="https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6j4i9n">https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6j4i9n</a> Akira Kurosawa – Throne of Blood (1957)</p>

<p>French New Wave (1950's &amp; 1960's)</p>	<p>In the 1950s and 1960s, film in Europe was undergoing a transformation. Leading the way was a French film movement that became known as the French New Wave. The filmmakers of the French New Wave had taken advantage of technological developments at the end of the 1950s that made it possible to shoot cheaply and easily on location,</p>	<p>Jean Luc Godard - Breathless (1960) François Truffaut - 400 Blows (1958)</p>
<p>British Social Realism (1950's &amp; 1960's)</p>	<p>Social Realism was a British film movement, influenced by Italian Neo Realism and elements of the French New Wave that emerged in the 1950s and 1960s.</p>	<p>Ken Loach - Kes (1969)</p>
<p>New Hollywood (1960's &amp; 1970's)</p>	<p>With audiences declining and financial problems mounting by the late 1960s, the studios had to find a way to reinvent themselves and make the films that would engage the crucial youth audience, which was an increasingly significant target for the film industry.</p>	<p>Martin Scorsese – Taxi Driver (1976)</p>
<p>Contemporary American Independent Film (1990-present)</p>	<p>During the late 1980s and early 1990s independent production companies began to show that they were able to produce films on low budgets that could be very financially successful at the box office – the kinds of projects the mainstream American studios were unwilling to back at the time.</p>	<p>The Coen Brothers – Fargo (1996)</p>
<p>Contemporary European Film (1990-present)</p>	<p>Many of film's earliest innovations were European, and in the first decade or so of the film industry many of the most powerful and significant film studios and production companies were European. Gradually the balance of power began to shift to a point where, by the mid 1910s, film became an industry dominated by American companies, something</p>	<p>Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck – The Lives of Others (2006)</p>

	<p>that has persisted to the present day. As with the contemporary British film industry, in comparison to the studio dominated approach of America the contemporary European film industry is smaller in scale and largely production lead.</p>	
<p>Documentary film (1895-present)</p>	<p>Documentaries have had a place in film history since the beginning of the medium at the turn of the Twentieth Century. Indeed, although the term hadn't been coined at the time that they were made, some of the earliest films ever made could be classified as forms of documentary.</p>	<p>Dziga Vertov - Man with a Movie Camera (1929):  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGYZ5847FiI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGYZ5847FiI</a>  Patricio Guzmán – Nostalgia for the Light (2010):  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6VDlxFYmKg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6VDlxFYmKg</a></p>