Reading and watching list for A Level Film Studies (The first term)

During the first term and up to February half term we will be looking at film Form, film context and classical v new Hollywood.

**During this time you will watch**

Pan Labyrinth (Guillermo del Toro)

City of God (Fernando Meirelles)

The Stories we Tell (Sarah Polly)

Vertigo (Alfred Hitchcock)

Blade Runner (Ridley Scott)

**Topics:**

**What is context:** <http://www.davidbordwell.net/essays/doing.php>  
**Technical Context:** <https://memeburn.com/2013/02/9-tech-innovations-that-changed-the-film-industry-through-the-ages/>  
**Some interesting approaches to representation:** <http://lessonbucket.com/vce-media/unit-1/representation/representations-in-film/>  
**Very useful article from The Guardian including clips on representation of age in cinema:** <https://www.theguardian.com/film/filmblog/2012/jul/04/what-films-best-portray-old-age>

As well as the technical context we will also be looking at

1. Gangs and life in the Brazilian Favelas – How to survive.
2. Life after the Spanish Civil war (representation of women and the Fascist regime)
3. The Truth – can we always believe what we are told in ‘factual productions’?
4. Auteur theory – looking at Hitchcock and Scott

Below are links and books to the specific films and eras we will be looking at in the first few months. This list is there to guide you and is not a requirement as we will go over all this but in order to prepare you for the course it would be good if you could read a few articles / books from each section.

**Hollywood**

**Classical Hollywood (1930-1960) and New Hollywood (1961-1990)**

* Schatz, Thomas *The genius of the system. Hollywood filmmaking in the studio era* Henry Holt, 1988.
* King, G. (2002) *New Hollywood Cinema: An Introduction,* (I.B. Tauris: London)

*Watch: Vertigo and Blade Runner*

**Vertigo (Hitchcock)**

* Auiler, D. (1998) *Vertigo: The Making of a Hitchcock Classic,* (St. Martin's Press: New York, USA)

***Blade Runner* (Scott, 1982)**

* Ebert, J.D. (2015) *Blade Runner: Scene-by-Scene,* (Post Egoism Media: Eugene, USA)
* Bukatman, S. (2012) *Blade Runner (BFI Film Classics),* (British Film Institute: London) Sammon, P.M. (2000) *Ridley Scott: The Making of His Movies (Directors Close Up),* (Orion: London)

**European and Global Film**

*Watch: Pans Labyrinth and City of God*

**Pans Labyrith**

* Picone, J. (2015) *The Best Cinematography: Exploring the Light and Dark in Pan's Labyrinth,* www.nyfa.edu/student-resources/best-cinematography-exploring-light-dark-pans- labyrinth/
* Diestro-Dópodo, M. (2013) *Pan's Labyrinth (BFI Film Classics),* (Palgrave Macmillan:
* Basingstoke)  
  Jones, T. (2017) *Studying Pan's Labyrinth,* (Columbia University Press: New York, USA)

**City of God**

* Griffin, J. (2013) *Why I Love the Depiction of the Favela in City of  
  God,* www.theguardian.com/film/2013/sep/25/why-i-love-city-of-god-favela
* Anon. (2012) *'City of God' Director Fernando Meirelles: "That Scene Was Completely Improvised",* www.miramax.com/subscript/city-of-god-fernando-meirelles-interview-video/
* Loader, J.-M. (2016) *How Does the Visual Style of 'City of God' Draw Attention to Social Realities in Brazil,* www.cinemahumain.com/city-of-god/

**Documentary**

* Kahana, J. ed. (2016) *The Documentary Film Reader: History, Theory, Criticism,* (Oxford University Press: Oxford)
* Nichols, B. (2017) *Introduction to Documentary, Third Edition,* (Indiana University Press: Bloomington, USA)

*Watch: The Stories we tell*

* Anderst, L. (2013) *Memory's Chorus: Stories We Tell and Sarah Polley's Theory of Autobiography,* sensesofcinema.com/2013/feature-articles/memorys-chorus-stories-we-tell- and-sarah-polleys-theory-of-autobiography/
* Nayman, A. (No Date) *Stories We Tell (Sarah Polley, Canada),* cinema- scope.com/currency/stories-we-tell-sarah-polley-canada/
* Morfoot, A. (No Date) *Tell Me a Story: Sarah Polley Tackles the  
  Truth,* www.documentary.org/magazine/tell-me-story-sarah-polley-tackles-truth