This course examines the role of cinema in Britain during the Second World War. Utilising a variety of primary sources, we will consider the relationship between cinema and wider political, social and cultural concerns of the era.

Although the importance of propaganda was widely recognised before the Second World War, the British were slow to use the cinema as a weapon. Indeed, the fear of air raids prompted the Home Office to announce the closure of all cinemas, fearing mass casualties in such venues. Within a week, the cinemas were reopened; audiences tended to consider cinema-attendance a worthwhile risk. Moreover, the cinema could now play a vital role in wartime society.

The Ministry of Information were largely responsible for Britain’s propaganda output; they made documentaries and information films, looked over scripts, and ensured distribution. Official documentaries, however, could only have so much impact. The commercial film industry willingly played its part in the war effort, and thrived as a consequence. Filmmakers had a sense of purpose, incorporating important messages into films, engaging with the concerns of wartime Britain, and even asking questions about the post-war future.

This course will examine the role of the commercial film industry during the Second World War. We will see how these films related to the wider war effort, and think about some of the difficulties in utilising the cinema as a tool of propaganda.

**Week 1: Fighting the War**
Two of the Ministry of Information’s key film directives were that cinema should show audiences ‘why we fight’ and ‘how we fight’. In this session we will examine how these themes were represented in wartime cinema, considering such issues as the depiction of the enemy, and questions about how British people could play their part.

**Week 2: Women and Wartime Cinema**
This session will examine both representations of women in wartime cinema, and the roles they played. As in the First World War, the position of women in society dramatically changed between 1939 and 1945. But the First World War had been seen, to some extent, as a missed opportunity for women. Would this be the same for women in the Second World War, and how did cinema engage with the issue?

**Week 3: Unity**
The civilian population were vital to the war effort during the Second World War. British society, however, was divided in a number of ways. There were great disparities between classes, regions, for example. This session we will consider the ways in which wartime cinema attempted to overcome some of these divisions and unify the population.

**Week 4: History as Propaganda**
Throughout the war, filmmakers moved beyond the contemporary to convey a sense of national identity. The past was used (and abused) frequently. Cinema could equate Hitler with Napoleon, or Churchill with Henry V. This session will consider how a common sense of a shared past could be invoked for propaganda purposes.
**Additional information**
There is no required reading. All materials will be provided in class. Books related to the subject include:

**Filmography.**
Some of the films looked at in these classes include:
*Brief Encounter; The Gentle Sex; Henry V; In Which We Serve; The Lion Has Wings; Millions Like Us; The Next of Kin; Night Train to Munich; Pimpernel Smith; This Happy Breed; The Way Ahead; We Dive at Dawn; Went the Day Well?; The Young Mr Pitt*

This course is suitable for all: prior knowledge is not essential. The course allows you to spend time exploring a subject for interest, among like-minded people, without formal assessment. There will be discussion opportunities during the course.

**Intended learning outcomes**
By the end of the course you will have developed an understanding of
- the importance of propaganda in Britain during the Second World War
- the key concerns of propagandists in wartime Britain
- problems faced by democracies in producing works of propaganda and maintaining their democratic principles
- the relationship between cinema and society
- the role the Second World War played ushering in a ‘golden age’ of British cinema.

**About the tutor**
David Budgen received his PhD in History from the University of Kent. His first book, *British Children’s Literature and the First World War: Representations since 1914*, was published by Bloomsbury in 2018. David is a contributing reviewer for *The International Encyclopedia of the First World War*, having written its survey article on war literature. He has also published a number of chapters in edited collections. These are largely focused on representations of history in film and television. He teaches History and American Studies at both the University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church University.
Short Course Programme

General information, terms & conditions

How to book a place
These courses are usually very popular so you are advised to apply as soon as possible. Places cannot be held without payment of the course fee.

- Online Booking is preferred. Please visit www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge
- By post to us at the address below, using the application form in the programme booklet. Please note that you will not receive an acknowledgment of your paper application; your payment will usually be processed when the course becomes financially viable, otherwise we will notify you of cancellation approximately seven days prior to the course. A paper application affirms acceptance of our terms & conditions.

Course cancellation
As these short courses are self-financing, each course can only proceed if there are sufficient enrolments. Therefore, if a course is cancelled due to insufficient enrolments we aim to notify applicants approximately one week before the course start date; if there is no suitable alternative course, we will refund the appropriate course fee in full. The University of Kent reserves the right to cancel a course for this or any other reason in which case the relevant course fee will be refunded in full. We advise that you do not buy books or other course materials until that particular course is confirmed as taking place: please contact us if you are unsure.

If you find it necessary to cancel your place on a course, please let us know as soon as possible. Refund requests, including the reason, should be made by email or in writing to us at the address below. We reserve the right to retain all or part of the course fee if you request a refund after 14 days of your online booking being made or paper application being received. Discretionary, partial refunds may be made, after the deduction of an administrative handling fee as follows:

- a course fee of up to and including £42 will incur an administrative handling fee of £10.00
- a course fee of £43 and over will incur an administrative handling fee of £12.50.

The University reserves the right to:

a) exclude any student if the student's presence is making it difficult for the class to function properly
b) cancel or amend the length of any course if the circumstances so warrant.

Neither the University of Kent, nor its staff, can be held responsible for any damage, loss or injury, however sustained, suffered by participants attending courses. Insurance is the student’s responsibility.

University Centre Tonbridge
For details of our other courses, news, events and location visit www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge.

- Parking. There is plenty of public pay and display car parking locally, but please note that only selected car parks permit parking in excess of four hours; detailed information is available from www.tmbc.gov.uk. No parking is available here on site.
- Refreshments are not provided; food and drink can be purchased from any of the nearby café outlets - we are closely situated to the High Street and town centre. A hot drink vending machine is usually available on the ground floor of this building.

Mailing List and data protection
Those attending our courses are automatically added to our database and kept informed about new courses. This information is not released to outside organisations. Please write to us if you do not wish your details to be kept on our database.

Please contact us if you have any queries or would like to register your email address to receive our course information updates. We look forward to welcoming you here soon.

University of Kent Tonbridge Centre
Avebury Avenue
Tonbridge TN9 1TG

01732 352316
www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge tonbridgeadmin@kent.ac.uk facebook.com/tonbridgecentre