Film Studies Induction
Research project

• Create a word document and complete the following tasks
Cinematography
(shots/angles/movement/composition)

*Cinematography* is the term given to the filming of images.
It involves the type of:
- camera shot chosen
- camera angle chosen
- the type of camera movement chosen
- The type of composition chosen (framing the shot)
Camera Shots
(Extreme) long shot
Medium long shot
mid shot
(Extreme) Close up
Point of View
2-shot

Camera Movement
Fixed
panning/tilt
tracking
hand held
Zoom (in/out/fast/slow)

Cinematography

Camera angles
High angle
Level
Low angle
Canted angle
Wide angle

Composition (framing)
focus pull (depth of field)
rule of thirds
lead in lines
• A director will use a variety of camera shots to make the film more interesting for the viewer
• Changing the camera shot stimulates the audience and keeps them engaged
• Different camera shots can highlight specific things or help to create tension or build representation of a character
Task one

• Research each camera shot and find three images for each example
• Make sure you identify each shot

Extreme long shot
Medium long shot
Close up
Pov shot
A high angle shot
A rule of thirds shot
A shallow depth of field shot

long shot
mid/medium shot
extreme close up
wide angle 2 shot
a low angle shot
a lead in lines shot
Task 2: A visual Glossary

• Using a camera/phone create your own examples of the following
• Make sure you identify each shot

Extreme long shot
Long shot
Medium long shot
Mid shot
Close up
Extreme close up
Pov shot
Wide angle 2 shot
Any high angle shot
Any low angle shot
A rule of thirds shot
A lead in lines shot
A shallow depth of field shot
Task 3

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-WCCdkVDr4

Watch the trailer for the film *Submarine*

Identify 7 different examples of ‘cinematography’

For each example, screen shot it and suggest a reason why the director chose to use this technique
Task 4: A photo story

Create a photo story.
Make sure it includes the following:
• Between 10-15 shots
• A variety of camera shots
• A narrative which is obvious to the audience
Sound

Sound is very important to films:

• It helps to create **understanding**; by listening to ‘dialogue’ the audience understands the story (narrative)

• It helps to create **tension**; the noise of a creaking door or a gun shot will add excitement

• It helps to create **mood and atmosphere**; the chosen background music will help to convey a feeling to the audience
There are two types of sound

• **DIEGETIC**
  Sound that ‘is in the film world’ (sound that the actors can hear)
  Dialogue/conversation/gun fire/ doors creaking, closing etc.
  (sound effects are considered diegetic)

• **NON DIEGETIC**
  Sound that has been edited in after the filming (sound the actors cannot hear)
  Background music/narration
Sound can be used in 4 different ways

• Only non diegetic
• Only diegetic
• A mixture of non diegetic and diegetic (this requires a technique known as ‘layering’)
• Total silence
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diegetic</th>
<th>Non diegetic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ambient</td>
<td>dialogue</td>
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<td>dialect</td>
<td>Background music</td>
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<td>Narration</td>
<td>Contrapuntal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parallel</td>
<td>Synchronous</td>
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<tr>
<td>asynchronous</td>
<td>Amplified</td>
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<tr>
<td>Synchronicity (editing)</td>
<td>Sound bridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Layering</td>
<td>silence</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Task 5

• Start creating a glossary of sound key words. Write a definition for the following key words; always try to use examples from the films you have watched.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sound Key word</th>
<th>definition</th>
<th>Example film</th>
<th>Reason for use</th>
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Task 6

Create a ‘sound power point’ and include the following

• A hyperlink of an example from a film
• One sentence explaining how/why it has been used

Example:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Htaj3o3JD8I
(group to write an explanation)
Task 7

Using as many key words as possible answer the following question
‘How is sound used in the opening sequence of Hot Fuzz to create meaning?’
(500 words)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Lqd-UwZmJ4

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=faMh6OYfuNE
Mise en Scene

Mise en Scene
Is a French term which describes the everything in the camera frame and the way it is shown and arranged. There are four general areas we need to consider:

• Setting (always think of the context of the film eg. Social/historical)
• Costume/props
• staging
• Successful ‘Mise en scene’ is essential in helping to build;
• genre
• Atmosphere
• Realism (verisimilitude)
Setting
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBWyKRo5h98U

Setting creates both a sense of place and a mood and it may also reflect a character’s emotional state of mind.

In Sofia Coppola’s trailer of *Marie Antoinette* (2006), the ornate décor evokes 17th century France and the castle of Versailles. The genre of this film is historical drama and the costumes and settings attempt to create a realistic impression for the audience.
Task: 8

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPYMUnJGURI

In the trailer from the ‘Woman in Black’ identify the different settings/locations used and give a reason for the choice of each

When completing this task always think of genre/narrative and time period the film is set in
Task: 9

The Lord of the Rings trilogy was filmed entirely in New Zealand. Watch the YouTube clip and give reasons for this choice.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOomDlnRR1o

The country of Jordan was chosen for the film ‘The Hurt Locker’. Give specific reasons for this choice.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmSI-gKpCXy
Lighting
(*now comes under cinematography)

Perfect lighting is key in films as every lighting set-up can provide a specific mood, emotion, atmosphere, and aesthetics to the overall viewing experience.

A camera does not adjust to light the way our eyes do. Our eyes are able to glance around and dynamically adjust based on subject matter. The director has to organise lighting for each shot because without doing so ‘the light’ may not exactly what is required.

For example there could be too many shadows as a result of the subject blocking the light source or the shot may be too bright or too dark.
Lighting

Key Words

• High Key lighting
• 3 point lighting
• Key light
• Back light
• Top lighting
• Diffused lighting

low key lighting
4 point lighting
fill light
background light
Standard Three-Point Lighting

1. Key Light
2. Fill Light
3. Back Light
Basic 4-Point Lighting

1. **Key Light**: Main light on which placement of all others is based. Usually the brightest.

2. **Fill Light**: Fills in shadows created by key light. Eliminates dark shadows on the subject.

3. **Back Light**: Illuminates the back of the subject to create three-dimensions. Subject will "pop out" from background.

4. **Background Light**: Illuminates the background of the scene. Otherwise, the subject will be well-lit on a dark set.
Lighting:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyzhFQWU6F4
(Principles of High and low key lighting)

• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vh_bFA7fwal
  (high and low key lighting used in the same extract ‘Mulholland Drive’)

• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jM3dRKpRots
  (High Key lighting used in ‘The Deathly Hallows part 2- Harry Potter and Dumbledore)

• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WEPmn8FHtDA
  (Low key lighting used in Casino Royale – Torture scene)
Task: 10

1. What function do the following lights provide?
   a) Back light
   b) Fill light
   c) Key light
   d) Background light

2. Why is four point lighting considered better than three point lighting?

3. What type (genre) of film might you use ‘low key lighting’? Give 3 real examples when this has been used.

4. What type of film might you use ‘high key lighting’? Give 3 real examples when this has been used.
Task: Lighting Glossary
for each key term write a definition and add an image from a film (see examples below and on the next slide)

Top lighting
When the upper areas of a subject are lit (outlined) by a source generating from above it. Usually the character stands out in a dark environment
The reason for using it is for dramatic effect
Back lighting

- Back lighting is when the light source comes from behind the subject. If this is the only light source used silhouettes are created. It can create a sad/romantic atmosphere or be essential in horror films to create fear and tension.

The ending to War Horse

A Nightmare on Elm Street
Props costumes/make-up

• Costume and make up work alongside each other to establish time and place
• Costume can work symbolically to give us clues about a characters character function, their mood or the time frame the film is set in.
• They are also crucial to creating a visual representation of the character(s)
• They are crucial in terms of creating ‘verisimilitude’ (realism)
Task 11

Look at the two images from the film ‘Bonnie and Clyde’

Deconstruct the images by answering the questions

1. What do you think is the time period of the film? Give as much evidence as you can

2. Describe the clothing worn

3. Write a paragraph describing how the two characters have been represented. The first image is from the beginning of the film and the second comes much later
Editing:

• Editing in film making involves putting together different camera shots and manipulating particular shots and sound. It is often considered the most important part of film making because it is where the film material is put in to an order which enables meaning to be made

• The objectives of editing are:
  • To make the narrative understandable
  • To engage the viewer
This shows that editing can:
• Change the pace of a scene; shorter edits means fast pace
• Compress time
• Change scene
• Eliminate unnecessary footage which isn’t needed for the ‘story telling’. This means that it helps to ‘move the narrative on’ which helps to keep the viewer engaged
Task: Research the following terms and

*straight cut*  
*jump cut*  
*dissolve*

*match on action:*
- An ellipsis
- An eye-line match

*A reaction shot*  
*Cross cutting*  
*Shot reverse shot*

*Synchronicity*  
*The 180 degree Rule*

Task: choose 3 examples from the above list and create a power-point with hyperlinks showing your example
Continuity Editing

Task:

a) Look at the example photo story and identify different editing terms which help to provide ‘continuity’ and understanding for the spectator.

b) Create a photo story which uses the following:

*Match – on-action, ellipsis, shot reverse shot, 180 degree rule, cross cutting*
Film Aesthetics

The combination of these four tools help to create the film’s *style*. A director will choose elements of these four tools to create the effect he wants on the audience.

The films ‘subject matter’ will usually determine how the four tools are used.

Critically, it is the interaction between a film’s subject and style which provides us means for informed analysis of *cinematic aesthetics*. 
As a simple example, we could take Steven Spielberg’s *Schindler’s List* and his choice to shoot the film in black-and-white instead of colour. In terms of the subject of this film, there is clearly much to say, but it will suffice to identify that the plot deals with Nazi concentration camps, many characters in the story are subjugated (under domination or control), and the theme directly pertains to the response of the human spirit in times of great horror and adversity. Given this subject, Spielberg’s decision to show his world in black-and-white has two effects relating to the subject: it creates a bleak, joyless world (the director himself has noted that he sees colour as a symbol of happiness), and also establishes a stark contrast between the corrupt and the virtuous characters in the film.
Look at the difference between Schindler’s list and the trailer for Girl with the Pearl Earring

*Girl with a Pearl Earring* is a 2003 drama film directed by Peter Webber. The film is about the painter Johannes Vermeer (1665) who created the painting of the same name. Cinematographer Eduardo Serra used distinctive lighting and colour schemes similar to Vermeer's paintings in order to create a ‘painterly aesthetic’
Similarly the film Sin City has a distinct aesthetic (look/style). The subject is a *Sin City* (also known as *Frank Miller's Sin City*)[3] is a 2005 American neo-noir crime anthology film written, produced, and directed by Frank Miller and Robert Rodriguez. It is based on Miller's graphic novel of the same name.

Colourisation is used on certain subjects in a scene, such as Devon Aoki's red-and-blue clothing; Alexis Bledel's blue eyes and red blood; Michael Clarke Duncan's golden eye; Clive Owen's red Converse shoes and Cadillac; Mickey Rourke's red blood and orange prescription pill container; Nick Stahl's yellow face and body; and Elijah Wood's white glasses. Much of the blood in the film also has a striking glow to it. The film was colour-corrected digitally and, as in film noir tradition, treated for heightened contrast so as to more clearly separate blacks and whites. This was done not only to give a more film-noir look, but also to make it appear more like the original comic. This technique was used again on another Frank Miller adaptation 300.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-B0tZg7BDRs

Because the film is based on a ‘graphic novel’ Frank Miller wanted it to look and have the style of a graphic novel
Film Noir

**Film noir** is a cinematic term used primarily to describe stylish Hollywood crime dramas from the early 1940s to the late 1950s. Film noir of this era is associated films with a low-key lighting and in black and white.

This choice of lighting emphasised the shadows and contrast which was ideal for this subject matter of murder, crime and sex.

The Hays Production code meant that this content had to be inferred rather than explicit, hence being hidden in the shadows.
Hence, we see that a single *stylistic* choice portrays aspects of *plot, characterization, and theme* – and very effectively. *Style* informs *subject*. 
Task 12

• Using examples of ‘visual styles’ write approx 200 words showing your understanding of *film aesthetics*

• Try to include examples of your own
Creating meaning

The four ‘tools’ of the director also help to create meaning. However, they are usually only successful when used together and not individually eg.

• The sound is only effective if it is accompanied by the appropriate images.

• Images are only successful if they are supported by the appropriate mise en scene

• all images and sound have to be carefully ‘edited’ together in order to create the appropriate meaning
• In order for the audience to understand the intentions of the director (or creator) it is necessary for the audience to ‘read’ or interpret or recognise ‘codes and conventions’. These are make the media text or film accessible.

• The theorist Barthes suggests that each text (film) contains a vast array (galaxy) of codes (signifiers) which are interpreted by the audience.

• **Enigma codes** ‘questions that need answering’

• **Semantic codes** (connotations) ‘a red rose has the connotation of love’

• **The referential code. This code** refers to anything in a text which refer to an external body of knowledge such as; scientific, historical, cultural knowledge. The referential code makes the audience understand or interpret meanings from what we already know. Eg clothing shows a ‘time frame’ and a shot of the statue of Liberty puts the text in ’New York’
• The very structure of film supports the narrative intentions, and as such, promotes expectation, anticipation, and engagement in the spectator (audience), who is being directed by the ‘film form’ to participate in a predictable narrative, that nevertheless remains surprising. This is why Neal states that ‘genres are…. of repetition and differences

• Usually this is also achieved by the use of story events, specific activities and visual/sound motif (a dominant or recurring idea) which reinforce the dominant or preferred reading

• A preferred reading is where the producers of the text ‘encode’ it with meaning using various codes such as music, lighting and cinematography in order to trying to get as much agreement over the meaning of it.

• It is made very clear how the filmmaker wants the audience to think and feel about the characters, story and events in the film
Task 13:

*Write a 500 word account of Gladiator and Ridley Scott’s preferred reading*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXiSp9aJYN4
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVLGwTggO8U

Watch the opening to ‘Gladiator’ and consider the following questions

- ‘What is the preferred reading of the opening scene?’
- Why does the audience want Russell Crowe’s character to succeed?
- Why does the audience dislike the people fighting the Roman army?

- As an audience where are you ‘positioned’ in the narrative?
- (use specific examples of: camera shots/mise en scene/ sound)
Task 14
Write 500 words analysing of the opening to ‘Apocalypse Now’
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5L617dEXlE

Read the supporting analysis to either;
a) help you answer the questions or
b) consolidate your written answers

• What do you think is happening in the scene?
• Why is the protagonist filmed upside down
• How has this ‘meaning’ been created?
• Identify the crucial elements of the mise en scene
• Identify and explain the inclusion of the important elements of sound