

Video Production: Cinematography:

In the first term at the college we look at the world of cinematography within video production. The aim is to give you the practical skills to be able to film aesthetically pleasing visuals and understand the narrative meaning behind each choice made.

Cinematography is the film maker's tool kit when it comes to how a film looks, so before you start working on your own visuals, we think it is important to understand the history behind the craft.

Below is a link to a documentary all about cinematography, which can be viewed through YouTube, though it's an older piece the information is as relevant today as it ever was.

Give it a watch and see if you can complete the quiz below, most of the answers to the questions can be found within the documentary itself though a little bit of internet research may be required.

Visions of Light - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXeuk1tO32k>

The film covers the art of cinematography since the conception of cinema at the turn of the 20th century. Many filmmakers and cinematographers present their views and discuss why the art of cinematography is important within the craft of filmmaking.

1. In what year was "Birth of a Nation" released?
2. What was the nickname for early films the first used sound?
3. Colour tints were used in early black and white films to represent time of day, can you identify which times of the day the following colours represent?

Blue:

Red:
4. Complete the name of this film movement from the late 1950's French New _____ ?
5. Name at least two characteristics from the movement named above?
6. Cinematographer Robert Surtees was how old when he worked on "The Graduate" released in 1967?
7. What was controversial about the way Marlon Brando was shot in "The Godfather"?

8. Cinematographer Conrad Hall is featured within the documentary, can you identify which 1999 film he worked on that won an academy award for best cinematography?
9. Gordan Willis is referred to as “the prince of darkness” during the film, why?
10. In the film “Jaws” what did keeping the camera near the waterline aim to achieve?
11. How was the period yellow tone achieved in “The Godfather”?
12. What is “magic hour”?
13. What is another title for a Cinematographer?

If you are hungry for more information on the subject and what you will be learning with us why not check out some of the following sources:

Composition – D4Darius – YouTuber

Darius shares tips on film making in this video he explores composition.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clvGRytmRaw>

Screenplayed – Youtube Channel

This YouTube channel shows how scripts are brought to life on the big screen.

See how the cinematographer creates visuals around source material.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UClIoUPKmfntWxiNQVBszHBQ>

Cinematography for Directors by Jacqueline B. Frost – Book

This book explores examples of collaborations between directors and cinematographers.

Cinematic Storytelling by Jennifer Van Sijll – Book

This book explores how ideas are transferred from the page to the screen.