FILM UNIT

Academic Vocabulary

Shot	a single piece of film uninterrupted by cuts.
Establishing Shot	often a long shot or a series of shots that sets the scene. It is used to establish setting and to show transitions between locations.
Long Shot	a shot from some distance. If filming a person, the full body is shown. It may show the isolation or vulnerability of the character (also called a Full Shot).
Medium Shot	the most common shot. The camera seems to be a medium distance from the object being filmed. A medium shot shows the person from the waist up. The effect is to ground the story.
Close Up	the image being shot takes up at least 80 percent of the frame.
Extreme Close Up	the image being shot is a part of a whole, such as an eye or a hand.
Shot-Reverse-Shot	a scene between two people shot exclusively from an angle that includes both characters more or less equally. It is used in love scenes where interaction between the two characters is important.

Shots and Framing

Camera Angles

Eye Level	a shot taken from a normal height; that is, the character's eye level. Ninety to ninetyfive percent of the shots seen are eye level, because it is the most natural angle.
High Angle	the camera is above the subject. This usually has the effect of making the subject look smaller than normal, giving him or her the appearance of being weak, powerless, and trapped.
Low Angle	the camera films subject from below. This usually has the effect of making the subject look larger than normal, and therefore strong, powerful, and threatening.

Camera Movements

Pan	a stationary camera moves from side to side on a horizontal axis.
Tilt	a stationary camera moves up or down along a vertical axis
Zoom	a stationary camera where the lens moves to make an object seem to move closer to or further away from the camera. With this technique, moving into a character is often a personal or revealing movement, while moving away distances or separates the audience from the character.

Lighting Techniques

High Key	the scene is flooded with light, creating a bright and open-looking scene.
Low Key	the scene is flooded with shadows and darkness, creating suspense or suspicio
Bottom or Side Lighting	direct lighting from below or the side, which often makes the subject appear dangerous or evil.
Front or Back Lighting	soft lighting on the actor's face or from behind gives the appearance of innocence or goodness, or a halo effect.

Editing Techniques

Cut	most common editing technique. Two pieces of film are spliced together to "cut" to another image.
Fade	can be to or from black or white. A fade can begin in darkness and gradually assume full brightness (fade-in) or the image may gradually get darker (fade-out). A fade often implies that time has passed or may signify the end of a scene.
Dissolve	a kind of fade in which one image is slowly replaced by another. It can create a connection between images.

Sound

Diagetic	sound that could logically be heard by the characters in the film.

| Non Diagetic | sound that cannot be heard by the characters but is designed for audience reaction only. An example might be ominous music for foreshadowing. |