**KEY FILM STUDIES TERMS**

**DENOTATION –** what is undeniably there *e.g. the sky shown in the shot is bright blue*

**CONNOTATION –** what meaning is suggested *e.g this connotes that the mood of the film is positive*

**Possible connotations of colour** (remember, there are many shades of each colour which change the connotations and genre plays its part too e.g. in the horror genre, red would connote violence and blood rather than love and passion)**:**

* **BLACK** Sexy, dangerous, death, fashionable, chic
* **RED** Sexy, dangerous, love, passion, violence, blood, death
* **BLUE** Calm, peaceful, masculine
* **YELLOW** Happiness, bright, jolly, hazard
* **GREEN** Healthy, nature, eco-friendly, calm, jealousy
* **BROWN** Earth, dullness
* **PINK** Happiness, feminine, youth
* **PURPLE** Royalty, richness
* **WHITE** Purity, calm, serenity, starkness

**DIRECT MODE OF ADDRESS –** person looking directly at the camera making a connection with the audience

**INDIRECT MODE OF ADDRESS –** person looking away from the camera, can connote they are a mysterious character

**MISE-EN-SCENE –** Everything within the frame

**SHOT TYPES**

**EXTREME CLOSE UP (ECU) –** a shot so close to the subject it shows clear detail e.g. an eye, a label. Can be used to disorient a viewer.

**CLOSE UP (CU) –** A shot showing a specific part of a subject e.g. a face, feet. Can be used to show emotion or feeling.

**MEDIUM SHOT (MS)** – A shot showing approximately half of the subject (if human)

**LONG SHOT (LS)** – A shot showing the whole subject (if human) or with sufficient depth that the surroundings are also clear in the mise-en-scene

**EXTREME LONG SHOT (ECU)** – A shot showing the subject in the distance and the majority of the surroundings. Can also be an **ESTABLISHING SHOT**, the first shot of a scene which establishes the location (e.g. a cityscape)

**CAMERA ANGLES**

**HIGH ANGLE SHOT –** Where the camera is placed up high, looking down on the subject. Can connote superiority.

**LOW ANGLE SHOT –** Where the camera is placed low down, looking up at the subject. Can connote weakness.

**CAMERA MOVEMENT**

**TRACKING –** where the camera moves with the subject

**PANNING –** where the camera follows the subject from a fixed point either left-right or up-down

**STILL**

**ZOOM**

**DIEGETIC SOUND** – Sound from within a scene, where the source is clear e.g. a gunshot when you see the gun being fired, birdsong when you see birds, dialogue when the actor is speaking

**NON-DIEGETIC SOUND** – Sound from OUTSIDE of the scene e.g. a soundtrack or voice over

**PLEONASTIC SOUND –** exaggerated sound

**HIGH KEY LIGHTING** – Bright, ambient lighting, sometimes connoting a happy atmosphere/romance/comedy etc

**LOW KEY LIGHTING** – Dark, ominous lighting, typically connoting action/horror/fear/unrest etc

**COSTUME –** what a subject is wearing and what this signifies about them

**PERFORMANCE –** a subject’s facial expression/body language and the way they behave and what this signifies about them

**AESTHETIC –** the look or feel of something (often linked to colour, style and/or lighting)

**INSTITUTION** – A company or organisation which produces media. E.g. Twentieth Century Fox is an institution because it produces media content but so is something like James Bond because they have become an organisation in their own right.

**GENRE –** The *type* of film e.g. a comedy, horror, action etc. These can be **hybrids**, e.g. a romantic-comedy or action-thriller

**REPRESENTATION** – How a person, place or idea is constructed within the media. A stereotype is a type of representation.

**AUDIENCE –** The person or people consuming the film. We might discuss this in terms of target audience and consider the way the film provides gratification.

**VISCERAL REACTION** – a physical audience reaction (laughing, crying, jumping in fear etc)

**IDEOLOGY** – The way the film presents attitudes, values and beliefs of a group or society

**NARRATIVE –** The way a story is constructed and told and how this creates meaning

**STEREOTYPE –** A way to categorise someone or somewhere by a set of often unfair characteristics, e.g. Essex girls

**GRATIFICATION –** Pleasure gained from consuming a media text. Does it inform/educate or entertain? Or might it allow the audience to escape, identify with the characters/storyline or have social interaction by speaking with their friends afterwards or commenting online?

**CONVENTION** – What you expect from a media product or institution. E.g. in a trailer, you expect to be introduced to the location and characters first.

**ICONOGRAPHY** – Something that signifies a genre. E.g. explosions and gun fights are iconography of the action genre.

**AUTEUR** – recognisable work from a director, almost like their signature on a film. E.g. Alfred Hitchcock would always appear in his films

**MASCULINE** – Something displaying typically male traits

**FEMININE** – Something displaying typically female traits