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English 312/Film Studies 380: Shakespeare and Film
Fall 2013

Visual Reading Exercise

Group A: Dimension

- **Foreground/background** (What is in each? How does the placement of objects/persons affect where the viewer’s eye goes first?)
- **Use of frame** (What is centered in the frame? What is partially in the frame? What might we know exists outside the frame even if we cannot see it?)
- **Perspective** (What is the dimension of objects and the spatial relationship between them? What proximity between viewer and images in the photograph does the perspective suggest?)

Group B: Lighting

- **Contrast** (How are light and shadow used? How do these gradations create a sense of or mimic a color palette?)
- **Emphasis** (How does light/shadow highlight certain elements of the photo and downplay others?)
- **Texture** (How do light and shadow lend a sense of texture to objects in the image and the overall image itself?)

Group C: Geometry

- **Pattern** (What sorts of linear patterns organize the images (diagonals, verticals, horizontals? How do these direct the eye?)
- **Structure** (What shapes are visible in the image? Which (if any) seem dominant in the image?)
- **Positive/negative space**: (What portion of the image is occupied by positive space? Negative space? What is the proportion between the two?)

Group D: Mise-en-scène

- **Objects** (What objects are present in the image? What do they look like? What makes them unique, that is, not like any other object?)
- **Composition** (Where are these objects placed? How might this effect the viewer’s perception of them?)
- **Temporality**: How do these objects create a sense of time and space? When is this moment? Where is it?)