

T436 Week 4 Lighting Exercise

September 2011

Objective: To learn how to use a light meter and to design and light a scene with a specific lighting ratio. You will also practice using the master scene method, learn how to utilize the zone system, and start your video production class blog.

Description: In this group exercise, you will build a simple set and design 2 different lighting plans for it: one will use low key lighting (E.g. 4:1 lighting ratio) and the other will use high key lighting (E.g. 2:1). Please use the same set for each scene, but light it differently. For each scene you will shoot a master shot and then get simple coverage. When you are finished, you will cut together a simple edit (this can as an option be done as a group) and individually analyze and critique your work.

Instructions: Draw a sketch (storyboard frame) and floor plan for a scene with simple set elements that you will light 3 different times. Each scene should have at least two characters in it. Record audio with a shotgun mic and boom pole. Just for fun try to use the same dialog in each scene.

A sample script might be:

Person 1 is seated behind desk. Person 2 enters.

Person 2: "Have you heard?"

Person 1: "About Sam?"

Person 2: "Yes, but there's more..."

Person 1: "Meaning?"

Person 2: "Sam's going away. For a long time."

Shoot the scene with two different lighting setups. The 1st should have a low key (E.g. 4:1) lighting ratio. The 2nd should have a high key (E.g. 2:1) lighting ratio.

When you are finished, review your scenes and edit together a simple edit (this can be done as a group). You will output still frames (please frame them as similarly as possible) of your two scenes. Individually, you will post the pictures to your video blog and write an accompanying 1-2 page article on your class lighting exercise.

How did the recorded scenes ultimately look?

Describe your success (or lack of it).

What other observations can you make?

Each group should turn in an Apple ProRes 4:2:2 Quicktime Movie (slated with all of your group member names and the scene you are shooting) at the next lab.