

## Visual Essay

You will find **basic instructions** in a PDF "VC assignment" in week 1 of the interactive syllabus. The assignment is due on **May 31st**. With the small change in the syllabus, please make sure you use the **correct references** for your analysis. These are:

1. For the **analysis of a film scene** (narrative film/feature film):
  - Rose G (2023) Compositional Interpretation: looking with a 'good eye'. In: Rose G (2023) *Visual methodologies. An Introduction to Researching with Visual Materials*, fifth edition, p.117-141. Los Angeles/London/New Delhi: SAGE)
  - See also **slides posted in week 9** ('Analyzing images: film, spectatorship & visual storytelling') for more instructions, and use the Film Analysis Guide (key concepts) posted here: <https://is.muni.cz/auth/el/fss/jaro2024/GLCb2031/um/>
  - Not sure whether the movie you've chosen is actually a **narrative film**? See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narrative\\_film](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narrative_film) or send me an email if you're in doubt.
  
2. For the analysis of a **photograph or small collection of photographs**:
  - Rose G (2023) Compositional Interpretation: looking with a 'good eye'. In: Rose G (2023) *Visual methodologies. An Introduction to Researching with Visual Materials*, fifth edition, p.117-141. Los Angeles/London/New Delhi: SAGE)
  - Pauwels L (2020). Visual Elicitation in Interviews. In: Atkinson P, Delamont S & Hardy MA (eds.) *SAGE Research Methods Foundations*, pp. 3-13. United Kingdom: SAGE Publications Limited.
  - Pauwels L (2015). An integrated framework for conducting and assessing visual social research. In: Pauwels L, *Reframing Visual Social Science. Towards a More Visual Sociology and Anthropology* (pp. 16-43). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
  - Banks M (2001) Reading pictures. In: Banks M, *Visual Methods in Social Research* (pp. 1-12). London/Thousand Oaks/New Delhi: SAGE Publications.

- See also **slides in week 10 and week 11**

As mentioned during class, **I don't expect you to use all of the key concepts and approaches** that you find in these texts. Instead, choose the ones you think are the most relevant and interesting for your analysis. Please note that you're free to use the concepts, debates and theories we've been discussing in class so far, if it supports your analysis. You can also use extra references from the library or online repositories, but this is not obligatory. I've posted some extra references to help you guide your visual analysis under "learning materials": <https://is.muni.cz/auth/el/fss/jaro2024/GLCb2031/um/>

## Structure and content

Your essay contains approximately **2000 words** (min. 1800, max. 22000 words) and makes up 40% of your final mark. **Your bibliography is not included in the word count!**

- The visual analysis (film scene analysis, photo analysis) itself contains **minimally 1000 words**.
- You also need to provide a **context** to your visual analysis, **maximum 800 words** (see below!)
- Optional (for extra points): add a **short self-reflexive note** to your essay. Why did you choose to analyze this particular film scene or photograph? Why and how is it relevant, meaningful, impactful to you? (not mandatory, extra points!) **Max. 250 words**.
- Whenever possible, **add images** (screenshot, picture) to your essay (including a caption), so I know which film scene, photograph, images you are talking about (or: link to website). If this is not possible for some reason (for instance copyright issues or sensitive content), briefly explain this in your essay.
- **Expressive content**. As mentioned during class, visual analysis does not need to purely descriptive and factual. You can be a bit poetic and playful in your interpretation, try to draw the reader into your visual experience and analysis. For more, see Rose's discussion

on 'expressive content' (p. 141-143) in the chapter in *Compositional Interpretation*, see also slides week 9.

### 1. Context for film analysis (max. 800 words)

- **Mandatory:** give a short synopsis of the movie, mention the title of the movie, name of the director, year of release, country of origin, 'time stamp' (05:01-07.57: this is when the scene takes place), short synopsis, describe the relevance of the film scene in the movie.
- Other examples of **contextual information** (optional) are for instance a short discussion of the main themes of the movie, genre, visual style, social or political context, representational issues... For an example, see slides week 9.

### 2. Context for photo analysis (max. 800 words)

- **Mandatory:** describe how you found this picture and if you can trace the origins, try to also gather some information about the photographer who made the picture(s), mention their name. Is this picture made by a professional photographer? When and where was the picture made (year and place)? Digital or analogue? In which genre would you place the image(s)? If the photograph has a title, mention this too.
- Other things you can discuss in the context part of your essay (optional): is the photograph part of an archive, did you find it online or elsewhere? Is it a commercial photograph or a photograph from a private collection? Is it part of an advertisement, news reportage, an artistic photograph or is it a domestic photo? Is it part of a photo series, and if so, how does this image relate to the other ones? Is there a certain theme, emotion or concern expressed in the image(s)?
- If you have chosen to write your visual analysis on the basis of **visual elicitation**, you could also briefly describe your relationship to your interviewee and why you have chosen to interview this particular person (not mandatory, see also 'short self-reflexive note' above).
- For more information, see for instance Banks' example of context of a photograph ("external narrative") in his chapter 'Reading pictures'; see also slides week 10 and week 11.