

SHOT BREAKDOWN
FST 200: Introduction to Film Study
Professor Todd Berliner

A shot breakdown identifies some technical devices used in a sequence of film. The sequence you must break down is on the Blackboard content page for this course and consists of six shots from *Notorious*. The clip is available for you to observe all semester.

Film Art defines the terms you will need to know to complete your breakdown. Refer to the sample breakdown from *His Girl Friday* on the next page of this handout as a guide.

The syllabus indicates the date that you must enter your answers in Blackboard.

FIRST, observe the assigned clip and make a note of the following devices used in each shot. Do this part of the assignment anytime before the due date indicated in the syllabus:

- 1) *Distance of framing*: ECU, CU, MCU, MS, MLS, LS, or ELS
- 2) *Shot height*: high, low, or normal.
- 3) *Shot angle*: high, low, or straight-on.
- 4) *Camera movement or zoom*: tilt up, tilt down, pan left, pan right, track forward, track back, track left, track right, track diagonal, crane up, crane down, reframing, zoom in, zoom out, no movement.
- 5) *Transition* from the previous shot: cut, dissolve, fade, wipe, or iris
- 6) *Match* from the previous shot: eye-line match, match-on-action, or none (ignore graphic matches).

If the distance, angle, or height varies (as the camera or primary characters reposition), or if characters are at different distances of framing, or if the camera moves in various ways, then indicate *all* camera movements and heights and the distances and angles for *all* characters.

SECOND, enter your answers in Blackboard during the time frame indicated in the syllabus. Do this part of the assignment on the date indicated in the syllabus:

You will enter your answers in the Blackboard “test,” titled “Shot Breakdown: *Notorious*,” found on the Blackboard site for this class during the 24 hour period indicated in the syllabus. Once you begin the test, you have one hour to enter your answers. You may exit the test and return to it, as long as you begin and complete it within the hour (the clock will keep ticking while you are logged out) and you don’t “submit” your answers. You may also revise your answers within the time frame, as long as you don’t submit. Once you submit your answers, you may not return to the test. If you run out of time without completing the test, it will “auto-submit” the answers you have completed.

The maximum score is 34 points, but Blackboard will not report your score until all tests have been submitted. We will go over the clip and the correct answers in discussion section on the date indicated in the syllabus, so hold onto the page on which you wrote your answers.

Sample Shot Breakdown

The first five shots of *His Girl Friday*

SHOT 1

1. **distance:** LS, MS
2. **height:** low
3. **angle:** straight on
4. **camera movement:** track left
5. **transition:** fade in

SHOT 2

6. **distance:** MCU, MS, MLS, LS
7. **height:** low
8. **angle:** straight on
9. **camera movement:** track left, tilt down, tilt up, pan left, track in, track back, track right.
10. **transition:** dissolve
11. **match:** none.

SHOT 3

12. **distance:** MLS
13. **height:** normal
14. **angle:** straight on
15. **camera movement:** pan left; reframing
16. **transition:** cut
17. **match:** match-on-action

SHOT 4

18. **distance:** MCU
19. **height:** normal
20. **angle:** low
21. **camera movement:** none
22. **transition:** cut
23. **match:** eyeline match

SHOT 5

24. **distance:** MCU
25. **height:** normal
26. **angle:** high angle
27. **camera movement:** none
28. **transition:** cut
29. **match:** eyeline match