

# **Basic Digital Photography**

## **Class 1**

### **Introduction**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR CAMERA AND ACCESSORIES TO EVERY CLASS**

- I. Very brief review of history of photography (This is some pretty dry stuff, but it can be useful)
- II. Define terms to be used in the course (Translating Photographic to English.)
- III. Display and discuss different camera types (Yes, they're not all the same.)
- IV. Discuss digital image file types and how best to use them. (Lots of talk about pixels and stuff.)
- V. Discuss image processing and manipulation programs and how to use them. (More pixels)
- VI. Review and Q&A
  - A. What camera problems are you having? (Don't be bashful.)
  - B. What questions do you have about your camera specifically?
  - C. What do you want to learn in this class?

# Class 2

## Exposure and Camera Handling

- I. How exposure works
  - A. What is ISO, and what can it do to improve (or ruin) your life?
  - B. How to use shutter speed... (Don't panic, it really is simple.)
  - C. Why do "aperture," "lens opening," and "f-stop" all mean the same thing?
  - D. Exposure rule of thumb (How your camera really measures light.)
  
- II. Explanation and exploration of Exposure Modes
  - A. Programmed Automatic
  - B. Shutter Priority (...and why does Canon think that abbreviates to "Tv?")
  - C. Aperture Priority ("Av" another Canon alphabetical challenge)
  - D. Manual (It's not so scary when you see how small it is and hear its squeaky little voice.)
  - E. Pre-Set Modes (The camera manufacturers were pretty creative to create these creations.)
  
- III. Camera handling techniques (Handling your camera, even when it gets unruly.)
  
- IV. How digital cameras make pictures. (It ain't sorcery, but it's close.)
  
- V. Camera care, maintenance and hygiene. (Nobody likes an untidy camera.)
  
- VI. Review and Q&A
  
- VII. This week's assignment: (Yes, there's homework, but that's why you're taking the class.) Pictures with subjects in open shade using various exposures.

## Class 3

### FLASH!

It's a lot easier than you think! First we'll talk about the pictures you took for the previous class; then we'll very gently cover all the aspects of using flash including auto, TTL, bounce, zoom, manual flash, fill flash, flash synch, and a couple of other terms that probably sound more impressive than they really are. I'm looking forward to a good bit of Q&A. Of course, the homework will be pictures using flash. ...surprise!

## Class 4

### Lenses

- I. Review and discuss last week's shooting assignment. (Yes, other people get to see your pictures again!)
- II. Focal length (What does 18-55 Zoom really mean?)
  - A. Prime or fixed lenses.
  - B. Zoom lenses
  - C. Vari-focal lenses (There's a new one...)
  - D. Actual magnification (How format and focal length work together to ruin your life.)
- III. Aperture (Aperture, lens opening, f-stop...here we go again!)
  - A. What does f/5.6 mean?
  - B. Depth of Field (Sounds scary, doesn't it?)
  - C. Recap of how aperture settings affect flash exposure.
- IV. Special application lenses (Neat, but sometimes expensive toys you can get.)
- V. Review and Q&A
- VI. More bloody homework! Photos using different focal lengths and different apertures, and here's the punch line: *with specific results in mind!*

# Class 5

## Close-up Photography

- I. Review and discuss last week's shooting assignment. (Yeah, that's gonna be a pretty regular thing.)
- II. Now is the time to exploit the vast stores of photographic knowledge you have accumulated over the last four weeks.
  - A. We'll check out your cameras and lenses to learn their close-up capability and how to access it.
  - B. We'll explore what tools and accessories are available for your camera, and how to use them.
  - C. We'll explore close-up tools in general and their plusses and minuses.
  - D. We'll play with a few lovely lenses and adapters, so bring something small with you that you want photographed.
- III. Review and Q&A
- IV. Open Q&A and discussion. It's time to ask those burning questions that have been accumulating over the last four weeks.
- V. Can you guess what this week's shooting assignment might be? Be prepared to get shot next week.

## **Class 6**

### **Portrait Techniques**

(Here's a hint, be beautiful when you show up this week)

- I. Review and discuss last week's shooting assignment. (Blah, blah, blah...)
- II. Portraits in the home (Put that bed sheet away, there's a better way to do this!)
- III. Portraits outdoors. (This is the tricky one, but we can handle it.)
- IV. Studio Portraits (Here's the knowledge you need to really frustrate the folks at Olan Mills.)
  - A. Posing techniques. (Study, the Mermaid, George Washington, and more...)
  - B. Use of multiple lights. (Key light, fill light, hair light, back light, rim light, halo, background light, gels, snoots, bumbershoots and soft boxes... you'll be the life of the party!)
  - C. We're gonna set up our own little studio and take pictures now.
- V. Q&A and review.
- VI. For your assignment this week, you get to really annoy your family, friends, pets, and, if you have any, mannequins.

## **Class 7**

### **Composition**

- I. Review yada yada yada...
- II. Composition tools and techniques. (They're not really rules, they're guidelines.)
- III. Aspect ratio (The psychology of the geometry of photography...)
- IV. Q&A and review.
- V. Now you're shooting compositions (When did this turn into English Class?)  
...and bring the owner's manual for your printer next week.

## **Class 8**

### **PRINTING**

- I. You guess!
- II. We'll talk about printer types and printer media and printer problems.
- III. We'll touch very lightly on monitor balancing with prints in mind.
- III. That's it. It's over. Go home. Take pictures.

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