

Advanced Digital Photography

Class 1

Introduction & Review of Basics

We'll go over the basics of camera handling and exposure, acquaint each student with his or her camera, and answer any questions that come up.

There will be a shooting field trip on the seventh week. We will discuss different locations and times and begin planning for that trip, final decisions to be made at a later date after everyone has had a chance to check schedules.

We will compare manual focus to auto focus and discuss situations when one might be preferred over the other; and work with different focusing methods.

We will then explore some advanced metering techniques and assign homework based on using these new techniques.

Class 2

Workflow and RAW File Management

Each class will start with a review of the previous class and a discussion of the results of the homework assignment.

We will learn how workflow is useful, even if you aren't a pro. We will look at methods of prepping RAW files for conversion to print and web applications; and for those who prefer not to shoot RAW, we will do the same for JPG files.

We will discuss and compare different methods of backing up and preserving your files and how copyright laws apply to you and your images.

The homework will be a repeat of the previous assignment, augmented with the expectation that the students will bring in edited, finished images to compare to the original shots for critique.

Try to feel pretty next week; we will be shooting studio portraits. You should also bring in samples of small subjects for commercial photography.

Class 3

Studio and Portrait Technique

This class will take place at the Shooters Studio at 3723 N. Caratoke Hwy. in Kitty Hawk. After homework review, we will explore multi-flash lighting using studio lights and the students' cameras. We will learn formal and practical posing techniques and how different poses and lighting scenarios work together. We will also look at methods of setting up a home studio on a budget.

We will work with still life, miniature, and commercial lighting and arranging.

Once the students are reasonably comfortable with studio lights, we will explore ways to apply studio lighting techniques outside the studio and on the fly.

We will conclude with a discussion of what to look for if you should wish to purchase (or improvise) a personal studio kit.

The homework assignment will be to photograph a portrait (preferably using multiple light sources) and/or a still life or commercial style subject.

Class 4

Low Light Photography

After reviewing homework, we will learn about the equipment and techniques used for photography where there is very little light; **no flash allowed!**

There will be a review of each student's equipment as to how effective it is and how it can be best utilized in low light. We will discuss what accessories (usually lenses) are best and what the pros and cons of specific equipment are.

The assignment this week will be to successfully photograph a black cat in a coal bin at 1am on a moonless night, or something similar.

Let us not forget the field trip in three weeks.

Class 5

Wild Card Week

1. Children and Animals
2. Advanced Flash
3. Review Exposure
4. Make a suggestion

Class 6

Printing

We will discuss preparing images for printing, up-sizing small images, downsizing huge images and optimizing images for different display methods. We will try to glean the inner workings of each student's personal printer and how to capitalize on that printer's capabilities. There will be much discussion of paper types, ink types and print preservation.

Hopefully, we will be ready for next week's field trip.

Class 7

Field Trip

Where to go...

1. Wanchese boat docks
2. Jockey's Ridge, sound side.
3. Elizabethan Gardens (We will each have to pay admission.)
4. Wanchese nature trail or old Freedman's Colony memorial site at sunset.
5. Coquina Beach
6. Oregon Inlet or points south
7. Whalehead Club or anywhere in Corolla at sunset

Class 8

YOU MADE IT!

After we look at (and discuss) the pictures from last week's field trip, we will review the classes of the previous seven weeks; after which you will all go out and become wealthy photographers and drive shiny new BMW's...

...or broke photography teachers and drive beat-up old Chevys.

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