



let's start your photography journey, together.

{ PHOTOGRAPHY 1: Basic Operation of a DSLR & Editing } SECTION A

Summer 2017

LIVE: Tuesdays 6-7p PST

ARCHIVE: Wednesdays -all day-

Instructor: Jessica McGehee / jess@reflectinggracephotography.com / 512.547.7496

Office Hours: Offered Weekly, By Appointment

Grading: Pass/Fail

I. COURSE RATIONALE

This course provides a comprehensive series of live lessons, at an accelerated pace, available in a flexible virtual learning format, to teach students the basic operation of a DSLR camera, for the purpose of inspiring the student to pursue photography professionally.

II. COURSE AIMS & OUTCOMES

AIMS

This course aims to inspire its students to utilize professional camera gear with regularity and, to sharpen photography skills. This course also aims to give students a helpful foundation in developing proper photography editing and shooting technique. This course aims to give students the tools and practice to consistently photograph technically accurate images.

SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course:

Students will be able to manipulate the ISO, aperture, and shutter speed on a DSLR camera.

Students will also be able to take a well exposed photograph and learn to properly put on

and take off lenses. Students will learn how to properly handle SD cards, play back images on their camera, and switch the camera to manual mode. Students will learn how to adjust the lens focus from auto-focus to manual focus.

Students will demonstrate the use of level horizons and rule of thirds. Students will also be able to take photographs from varying angles while keeping the subject completely in frame. Student will be able to discern when you would like the entire subject in frame and when it is not necessary to keep the subject in frame. Students will demonstrate elements of visual interest in choosing the background of their images. Students will use proximity to subject to create perspective. Students will identify and demonstrate use of leading lines.

Students will define and manipulate ISO, aperture, and shutter speed.

Students will decipher proper settings manipulation per a particular shooting scenario to produce a well exposed and properly focused image.

Students will demonstrate proper exposure consistently in photographs by manipulating ISO, aperture, and shutter speed. Students will demonstrate proper/flattering place of outdoor and indoor light. Students will practice filtering indoor and outdoor light. Students will be able to create a “true-to-eye” photo through the use of Lightroom editing software. Students will be able to manipulate exposure, contrast, temperature, and white balance in Lightroom to produce a true-to-eye edit. Students will be able to describe what each setting does, in their own words.

Students will understand how to manipulate highlights and shadows in Lightroom. Students will practice shooting in varying situations to create intentional highlights and shadows for the purpose of black and white editing. Students will be able to edit a photo in black and white.

Students will be able to make exposure, temperature, white balance, and contrast adjustments in Photoshop. Students will learn how to create a Lightroom pre-set and apply it. Students will practice discerning when a pre-set does not work for a particular image. Students will demonstrate how to batch edit in Lightroom.

Students will perform a full 30 min outdoor photography session for a faux client, to yield images edited, true-to-eye, in Lightroom. Students will also perform a full 30 min indoor photography session for a faux client, to yield images edited, true-to-eye, in Lightroom.

Students will feel more comfortable using a DSLR camera by completing this course. Students will have a firm understanding of how to shoot in manual mode and feel more confident sharing their images publicly.

III. FORMAT & PROCEDURES

This course will meet in a LIVE classroom environment for 60 minutes each week. 60 minutes will consist of an introduction, lecture over a particular topic, engaging questions to check receptivity of content, and a short assessment at the completion of the lecture. Students are expected to attend all classes live. In the event a make up day is needed, the same course will be re-offered the following day as a recorded archive. Students are expected to attend each class or the archive, and complete homework assignments by their deadlines. Students are expected to treat fellow students with kindness and grace. The final 2 weeks of the course are designed for partner projects. These projects will be discussed in further detail near the end of the course. However, students can anticipate performing two photo sessions, and allowing their peer to

critique them before submitting their final project to be graded. Photo assignments will be uploaded into the virtual classroom by the student before the deadline. Any large image uploads will go through a private dropbox upload folder. Students are expected to have adequate internet upload speed to be able to upload large files in a reasonable amount of time. Your internet should operate at 35mbps, but 50+ is highly recommended.

IV. MY ASSUMPTIONS

This course isn't going to turn you into Jasmine Star. What this course is going to do is teach you, and give you the skills you need to start learning to shoot at a professional level. You all are coming into this course at different skill levels, and it is my goal to tailor your experience to your skill level. I intend for you to grow as a photographer, both in skill and confidence. You will be challenged to find your own identity and style as a photographer. You may have several photographers you look up to and admire, but you'll find that what makes each of them so amazing is their UNIQUENESS. This course will be fun, fast-paced, inspire you to pull out your camera more often, and hopefully set you on a path to earn extra income by launching your own photography business. My assumption is that you will give this course your full attention and practice shooting as often as possible. I recommend using your camera at least once a day every single day of this course. I also assume that you will act with integrity and kindness to your peers and give this course your BEST. Ultimately, you're investing in your OWN SUCCESS. So, give it all you got!

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION: Students are expected to attend all classes live. In the event a make up day is needed, the same course will be re-offered the following day as a recorded archive. Each student is required to participate in class by commenting at least once. The last few minutes of each class is reserved for questions. Students are expected to have questions each class.

2. COURSE READINGS

(a) Required Materials: 1) DSLR camera required (model number must be approved before registering for the course). Your camera does not need to be new. Students that do not currently own a DSLR camera also have the option of renting a camera for the duration of the course; 2) A lens with a f/1.8 or wider aperture. This item may also be rented if the student does not own one; 3) SD card that fits inside camera; 4) Computer and internet access to attend classes; 5) Access to Lightroom 4, 5, or 6.

(b) Required text: *NONE REQUIRED for this course.*

(c) Supplemental readings: You'll find I will forward along articles on occasion that are recommended to read. These are NOT required reading, but you'll find the more you read, the more inspired you become!

(d) Social Media Accounts: You will be required to use Facebook to participate in

our private course group.

3. FINAL PROJECT

Completion of the final project is required to pass the course. **Students final project is due to be uploaded to your private drop box link by 11:55pm PST on September 30, 2017.** The details of the Final Project will be discussed at the end of Lesson 8. **There will be a set of open Office Hours on Sept 26, 2017 during normal class time to ask any questions or get preliminary feedback on your project.** Attendance during Office Hours on Sept 26, 2017 is not required, but it is recommended. Please find the details on the Final Project at the end of this syllabus. You will have a peer partner during the final project to help give you feedback before submitting. It is assumed you and your partner will meet/chat by phone at least once to discuss your work, before submitting it. *You'll find that in the world of professional photography, your peers are a great source of constructive feedback and encouragement.*

4. FINAL EXAM

The final exam will be administered during class time on October 3, 2017. The exam will consist of 50% vocabulary and 50% problem solving scenarios.

V. GRADING PROCEDURES & GRADING SCALE

Each assignment will receive one of the grades below. At the close of the course, a PASS or FAIL. **GRADING SCALE : A PASS counts as 10 points toward your final course grade. A REDO counts as 8 points toward your final course grade. A FAIL counts as 0 points toward your final course. You need 70 total points to pass the course. Grades are not posted publicly. They are kept private. Each grade with comments will be emailed to you each week after assignment submissions.**

P = PASS *This assignment was successfully completed. It is worth 10 points toward your final grade.*

R = REDO *Read through feedback and redo the assignment. You may redo an assignment up to 3 times to earn a PASS. A PASS after a redo is still only worth 8 points. After 3 attempts, you will receive a FAIL for this assignment.*

F = FAIL *This is assignment cannot be redone. It is worth 0 points toward your final grade.*

VI. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Each student in this course is expected to operate with kindness and integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course should be his/her own work. You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lecture and the sections with other students. You can give "consulting" help or receive "consulting" help from other students.

However, this permissible cooperation should never involve one student having shot or edit all or part of your work.

VII. ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for students with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first two weeks of the course, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made.

VIII. INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

We understand that our students represent a rich variety of backgrounds and perspectives. I am committed to providing an atmosphere for learning that respects diversity both within and outside of the military community. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- honor the uniqueness of their peers
- appreciate the opportunity that we have to learn from each other in this class
- value each other's opinions and communicate in a respectful manner
- keep confidential discussions that we have of a personal (or professional) nature

IX. COURSE SCHEDULE

TOPIC	HAVE FOR CLASS	ASSIGNMENT	D
AUG 1 Lesson 1 - Basic Operation of a DSLR	DSLR Camera with a full battery charge. One lens with a cap. An SD card that fits inside your specific camera. <i>A lens cloth is helpful, but not required.</i>	Take 5 photos of your family in the AUTO position. Email Low Res files to Instructor by due date. Subject line of email is : PHTG 1 / Lesson # - HW (LAST NAME)	AUG 6 by 11:55p PST

<p>AUG 8 Lesson 2 - Composing Shots</p>	<p>Camera, Lens, SD card, fully charged battery.</p> <p>Apple or other piece of round fruit.</p>	<p>Take 15 photos in AUTO with varying composition. Use rule of thirds in 10 of the images. Ensure horizons are level in all. HW must contain at least 5 different subjects. HW must contain at least one example of a still object. Email Low Res files to Instructor by due date. Subject line of email is : PHTG 1 / Lesson # - HW (LAST NAME)</p>	<p>AUG 13 by 11:55p PST</p>
<p>AUG 15 Lesson 3 - Learning Manual Shooting part 1</p>	<p>Camera, Lens, SD card, fully charged battery.</p> <p>A group of 5 small toys (or other small object) in a variety of colors. <i>(About the size of a large LEGO.)</i></p>	<p>Take 5 photos of 1 family member in the MANUAL position. Set your aperture to f/4. Use the same composition in each image, but take the picture at 5 different ISO levels. Label your files with the ISO number of that image. Edit with basic adjustments. Email Low Res files to Instructor by due date. Subject line of email is : PHTG 1 / Lesson # - HW (LAST NAME)</p> <p>.</p> <p>Indoors, near a window or light source, take 5 photos of the tip of a writing utensil in the MANUAL position. Set your ISO to properly expose the image. <i>(This means you will be adjusting your ISO and your aperture each image.)</i> Use the same composition in each image, but take the picture at 5 different aperture adjustments. Label your files with the f-stop of that image. Edit with basic adjustments. Email Low Res files to Instructor by due date. Subject line of email is : PHTG 1 / Lesson # - HW (LAST NAME)</p>	<p>AUG 20 by 11:55p PST</p>

<p>AUG 22 Lesson 4 - Learning Manual Shooting part 2</p>	<p>Camera, Lens, SD card, fully charged battery.</p> <p>A teddy bear or stuffed animal and a chair. Place chair and teddy bear next to a light source, lamp or window (if day time).</p>	<p>Look up the time of sunset and sunrise for your city. At either sunrise or sunset, take 10 photos outdoors in MANUAL MODE. Select a subject or landscape to photograph and choose your ISO and f/stop based on what looks good on the back of your camera. You should also choose a flattering way to compose the image. Use different compositions for each image. Label each file with the ISO and f/stop settings. While you're shooting, make notes of why you decided to adjust the ISO and f/stop the way you have. We will discuss these notes in class. Email Low Res files to Instructor by due date. Subject line of email is : PHTG 1 / Lesson # - HW (LAST NAME)</p>	<p>AUG 26 by 11:55p PST</p>
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<p>AUG 28 Lesson 5 - Using Natural Light</p>		<p>Take a subject outside at the optimum evening shooting time. Take 3 interestingly composed shots with proper focus, ISO, and shutter speed adjustments. Use a f/1.8 aperture for shooting. Each image submitted should be composed with proper light placement for the sunset scenario. Email Low Res files to Instructor by due date. Subject line of email is : PHTG 1 / Lesson # - HW (LAST NAME)</p> <p>Take a subject's photos indoors utilizing natural light. Turn off ALL lights in the room. Use a f/1.8 aperture. Demonstrate proper light placement. Email Low Res files to Instructor by due date. Subject line of email is : PHTG 1 / Lesson # - HW (LAST NAME)</p>	<p>SEPT 3 by 11:55p PST</p>
<p>SEPT 5 Lesson 6 - Basic Editing in Lightroom</p>		<p>Download the 3 images files to edit. Using Lightroom, edit each photo using only: Exposure, Temperature, Tint, Contrast, and White Balance. Email Low Res files to Instructor by due date. Subject line of email is : PHTG 1 / Lesson # - HW (LAST NAME)</p>	<p>SEPT 10 by 11:55p PST</p>
<p>SEPT 12 Lesson 7 - Shooting & Editing Black & White Photos</p>		<p>Using MANUAL MODE, take and upload 2 black and white images indoors with the use of natural light only. Edit with black and white adjustments. Email Low Res files to Instructor by due date. Subject line of email is : PHTG 1 / Lesson # - HW (LAST NAME)</p>	<p>SEPT 17 by 11:55p PST</p>

SEPT 19 Lesson 8 - Basic Photoshop & Understanding Pre-Sets		Using MANUAL MODE, take 3 images outdoors during optimal light OR 3 images indoor in optimal conditions at a f/1.8 aperture and edit the image in photoshop using basic adjustments. Email Low Res files to Instructor by due date. Subject line of email is : PHTG 1 / Lesson # - HW (LAST NAME)	SEPT 24 by 11:55p PST
SEPT 26 No Class Required. Available during class time for questions/ feedback.	n/a	FINAL PROJECT UPLOADED	SEPT 30 by 11:55p PST
OCT 2 FINAL PROJECT DUE & EXAM	n/a	n/a	n/a

{PHOTOGRAPHY 1: FINAL PROJECT}

Due no later than 11:55p.m. Sept 30, 2017

Perform 2 photograph sessions that are at least 30mins each, one indoor, and one outdoor. Choose 15 images from each session, edit these images using Lightroom. Then, export and upload both the edited and unedited versions of the images to your drop box FINAL PROJECT folder. *(Total image upload should be 60 images. Export these images as HIGH RES: 300 PPI images.)*

Label the files that are unedited: “UNEDITED_LASTNAME_FINALPROJECT_IMG#”

Label the files that are edited: “EDITED_LASTNAME_FINALPROJECT_IMG#”

Scheduling Your Sessions

Use two different subjects for your sessions. Please email me the first and last name of the person(s) you intend to photograph, along with an email address and phone number no later than September 15, 2017. As soon you’ve scheduled an exact date, time, and location for your sessions, email me those details so that I have them on file. I will reach out to your client after your session to get any general feedback on their experience working with you. They can be someone you know personally or a complete stranger; totally up to you.

What / How to Shoot

Each session should be a reflection of the skills you’ve studied during the course. Push yourself to think creatively, versus just playing it safe. However, push yourself creatively within the parameters of a technically accurate photo. Horizons should be level. Subjects should be creatively composed. Keep in mind the background and ensure it is composed favorably as well. Ensure your choice of light is placed in a flattering way and is the optimal time of day for that type of light. No off camera flash or artificial lighting should be used. Indoor sessions should take place with all lights in the room, off. The style and vibe of the shoot is completely up to you. Focus on getting crisp, clear, well focused, properly exposed images.

Be Sure To Include

You will be graded on the variety of images you upload. Make sure you have at least one example of each of these below:

- RULE OF THIRDS
- PROPER PLACEMENT OF INDOOR LIGHT
- INTENTIONAL USE OF HIGHLIGHTS / SHADOWS

- CLOSE UP PORTRAIT
- IMAGE WITH EMOTIONAL APPEAL (EXPRESSION)
- BLACK AND WHITE IMAGE
- IMAGE TAKEN AT SUNSET

Grading Rubric

Your images will be scored on the following criteria on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being “*shows no understanding of this concept*” with 10 being “*shows flawless understanding of this concept.*”

- Well-Composed 10%
- Properly Exposed 10%
- Proper Direction/Use of Light 10%
- Retouching Precision 10%
- Creative Approach 10%
- Subject Placement in Frame 10%
- Aperture Choice 10%
- Overall Execution of Shoot 10%
- Overall Execution of Editing 10%
- Followed Instructions on Assignment (File Name/Exporting Specs, Etc) 10%

Final Grade = Percentages added from above rubric. 70 required to complete course.

Feedback

You will be paired up with a peer to give you feedback as you assemble your final project. This communication does not need to be documented. The purpose of this is to have another set of eyes look over your work and give you thoughts. You’ll find this increasingly helpful in your professional photography career. You are encouraged to attend Office Hours the week prior the Final Exam during class time, though it is not required.