

COURSE OUTLINE

STREET PHOTOGRAPHY & CAMERA HANDLING

The following is a guide to the course content. Each topic will be summarised in printed hand-outs as well as practiced in the field or discussed over a cup of tea.

CAMERA HANDLING

Being able to use the functions of your camera instinctively for creative ends.

Not dial twiddling at the “decisive-moment.”

- No green square - turn off Auto.
- Camera physiology - how does it work and what does what and when to press it?
- Use of aperture for depth of field control for subject isolation or sharp landscapes.
- Aperture preview and “learning your lenses”.
- Tips on focusing, both accurately and creatively. Pre-focusing and blur effects.
- Shutter speed as a creative option. Freezing and blurring motion. Panning and freezing with flash.
- Relationship of shutter speed to zoom. Steady shots or hitchcockesque lens pulls.
- Preemptive ISO settings in the field and its effect on image quality upon download.
- Movement - moving the camera, your environment or subject creatively.
- Use of tripod for more extreme motion, HDR and exposure effects.

LIGHTING

Using available light to your advantage and its changing qualities throughout the day.

How camera’s “see” light differently and being able to predict this ahead of capture.

- Use of histograms to confirm good exposures without “clipping” or burn-out.
- Use of shadow and shade and how to calculate exposures in challenging compositions
- Silhouetting - how to use it or lose it. Compensating for contrasting light in silhouette situation.
- Flash - do’s and don’ts. Using flash subtly and effectively in different situations.
- Reflecting light to your advantage and its qualities in portraiture.
- Indoors - overcome the challenges of artificial, mixed light.
- Understanding light distances. Photographer <- >Subject <-> Light Source.

BASIC COMPOSITION

Got a camera, got a subject? An informal discussion of aesthetics in picture composition.

- Line and form what meets where and leads the eye to who or what.
- Thirds - the classic rule of thirds for balanced or deliberately skewed compositions.
- Perspective - take a new perspective on life and your subjects.
- Vanishing points - moving them, colliding them to where you want them.
- Focal length affecting image depth. Bring forth thou background and show thee context.
- Compression - play god and magic the size of your background to your pleasing.
- Depth of field - classic shallow depth portraiture or exacting architectural shots.
- Leads in and leads out. Take the audience to the subject not the picture frame.
- Punctums - Mr Barthes’ all concurring, recurring eye catching image distinguishers.
- Use of colour in images
- Seeing in Black and White. Predicting how contrast and colour is resolved in monochrome.
- Shooting for Stock - what sells and why.

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PORTRAITURE

Capture fellow man on film with a unique twist or an exacting eye.

- Candid - capture your subjects without intrusion, walk away feeling happy not upset.
- Staged - how to approach a subject and craft a formal approach to tie a project together.
- Lighting - in specific consideration of portraits. Flatter or exaggerate features and textures.
- Composition - off with their heads! Lining up head shots and lens choices.
- Flash - to flatter not scorch your sitters. Use flash in your favour.
- Approach - communicate well with subjects to get the right look.
- Showing the sitters context to add narrative.

LANDSCAPE/CITYSCAPE

Wide and long lens work to communicate and capture the city of London.

- Moving within an environment to change composition and perspective.
- Manipulating your scene without touching it. Changing angles and scene interactions.
- Patience! The city never sleeps, release the shutter at the right time.
- Predicting how light will vary through a day and its effect on buildings and textures.
- Capturing the atmosphere of an area by working out its unique aesthetic.

ARCHITECTURE

An introduction into the exacting art of photographing buildings.

- Line and form with particular emphasis on vanishing points of streets and skylines.
- Minimising perspective error, keeping the verticals vertical and how.
- Abstraction of shape and textures. Use of telephoto to show details.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Model and property releases. Polite approaches and guidelines fight the red tape.
- Health and safety - working in a crowded place safely and subtly.
- Privacy and respect for the public.

ASSISTING

- Working on projects in pairs. A little help goes a long way in realizing ideas.
- Working with a friend for portraiture.

DOWNLOAD PHOTOS

- Download of all of the photos, Shoot Experience style for quick fire judging.
- Round robin of individual feedback and technical advice.
- Prize awarded for the best shot of the day, your turn to judge.
- Images are uploaded onto the shoot website for legacy viewing.