



WAUKESHA
COUNTY TECHNICAL
COLLEGE

School of Applied Technologies

Basic DSLR Camera Operation

203 425 001

CRN: 21111

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: David Denemark	Office phone: 262-370-6200 text message
Email: ddenemark@wctc.edu	Office hours & location: 8-10AM-home
Class Meets: March 21- May 2, 2016 Monday for 6 weeks, 9- 11:50am, NOTE: SCHOOL IS CLOSED March 28. No Class that day	Class Location: Room G-149
Program Advisors:	
Beth Felch: Graphics and Engineering	bfelch@wctc.edu
Dena Constantineau: Manufacturing	dconstantineau1@wctc.edu
Gloria Saunders: Construction and Transportation	gsaunders@wctc.edu

Course Description:

This short course will focus on theory and techniques used to create dramatic and interesting photos while learning how to use your SLR camera and lens. Two field trips are included . All students MUST sign a WCTC field trip release form in order to attend.

Subjects covered include: identifying the basic parts of your camera, using and interpreting the instruction manual, how to adjust your camera settings to capture images as the light levels change, how to photograph subjects in low light using a strobe and more. Most importantly, students will learn how to succeed in taking better photos in difficult lighting and weather conditions with their equipment. Emphasis will be placed on becoming more technically familiar and at ease while taking photos with a SLR camera and accessories plus more as requested.

Suggested reading and required: Available on line and possibly at your local bookstore.

THE USER MANUAL FOR YOUR CAMERA

GO TO BLACKBOARD or MY WEBSITE

For PDF files of class handouts

http://www.daviddenenmarkphotography.com/WCTC_PHOTO_CLASSES.html

Suggested Equipment:

A single lens reflex (DSLR) digital camera with lens or all in one camera with non-removable lens.

A wide-angle 35mm (equivalent) lens that zooms from 35mm to 150 mm or better is preferred but not essential for best results. You can work with whatever lens you have or any single lens reflex view camera you own. Pocket cameras are also acceptable if you can use manual settings.

A computer at home to download and organize photos for class

Mini USB zip/thumb drive to bring your images to class for discussion

A strobe or other flash device is desirable or a good LED flashlight

Course Competencies:

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Know how to read and understand the instruction manual and software supplied with their camera.
2. How to select the right camera settings for different situations found on location in the field.
3. Understand and know how to take time exposures in manual mode.
4. Overcome the limitations of auto focus and “digital lag” when objects are moving in the frame.
5. Recognize what the different camera shooting modes can do and when to change them for the best control of shutter speed and aperture settings.
6. Make adjustments to their camera to create better indoor photos at parties and other events with mixed existing light.
7. Know when and how to use a strobe for fill in flash.
8. Take photos outdoors at night, using pocket strobes.
9. Use advanced camera features such as custom white balance and exposure bracketing.

Critical Life Skills:

- **Citizenship:** Demonstrate local and global awareness, social responsibility, and effective engagement with diverse populations
- **Communication:** Communicate effectively in personal, academic, and professional interactions using appropriate modalities.
- **Critical Thinking:** Evaluate pertinent information to reach an informed conclusion.

- **Problem Solving:** Solve personal, academic and professional problems using disciplinary concepts and frameworks.
- **Relationship:** Cultivate civil relationships to be effective in personal, academic and professional life.
- **Self-Management:** Apply methods of continuous personal, academic and professional improvement.

Course Requirements:

It is extremely important to attend every class; it will weigh heavily toward your final grade.

Students are expected to be on time to every class and to come prepared with all needed materials and homework completed. Each student is expected to keep a 3-ring binder in order to keep all handouts, quizzes, exams and homework organized. Students should make arrangements to get any missed assignments.

Students must complete the assigned reading and homework prior to arrival at class. Lectures will serve only to clarify, selectively highlight, and supplement the assignments. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions.

Each student will be required to successfully complete all assignments. Students will be required to have and use appropriate personal protective equipment as required.

Grading Criteria: CEU credits uses Pass/Fail

Policies

WCTC Student Code of Conduct Statement:

WCTC, as a community dedicated to learning, personal growth and the advancement of knowledge, expects and requires the behavior of all of its students to be compatible with its high standards of scholarship and conduct. All individuals and/or groups of the WCTC community are expected to speak and act with respect for the human dignity of others, both within the classroom and outside it, in social and recreational as well as academic activities. The WCTC Code of Conduct and Academic Ethics Code further outline the rights and responsibilities of students. For more information, those documents can be found at: www.wctc.edu/conduct.

WCTC Title IX Statement:

WCTC prohibits all forms of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and coercion – including sexual harassment, assault, and other forms of sexual misconduct. If you have been the victim of, witnessed, or been made aware of an incident of discrimination/harassment (including sexual misconduct), campus support resources exist – and reporting is strongly encouraged. Students should be aware that WCTC staff, faculty, and administrators have a duty to report such

incidents. For the safety of our campus community, we encourage students to do the same; if you see something – say something.

WCTC does not discriminate against any student on the basis of pregnancy or related conditions, and will comply fully with Title IX regulations. Absences due to medical conditions relating to pregnancy and maternity leave will be excused for as long as deemed medically necessary by a student's doctor, and students will be given the opportunity to make up missed work.

For more information, including links to community and confidential resources, visit www.wctc.edu/sexual-misconduct, or contact me at x3481 or ssimmons9@wctc.edu.

Attendance and Tardiness:

WCTC tardiness and attendance policies will be in effect. Students who leave class without authorization prior to dismissal are considered absent for the entire class. If you know that you are going to be absent from class, **call your instructor** as far in advance as possible. This will inform the instructor so appropriate arrangements can be made to provide any class materials and/or handouts that were given out. If the student calls in, and only has one absence for the semester, no grade deduction will be given.

A student will have failed the course after the equivalent of three-week absences (for example: a 2 credit course meeting once a week three absences will result in failure, for a 2 credit course meeting twice a week, 6 absences). Department policy is that students maintain 80% class attendance, and a student missing three classes in the first two weeks will be withdrawn from the class. Exception to this policy may be granted for one documented excused absence. A medical excuse and prior instructor approval may qualify for this exception. Students will be required to make up any work missed and will perform additional assignments as deemed necessary by the instructor.

It is the student's responsibility to find out from class members any work, lecture or notes missed.

Breaks will be determined by the instructor. All students will break at the same time. During breaks, students may not leave the classroom or lab without instructor permission.

Academic Honesty:

Students assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of all coursework they submit. This means that any work you hand in as your own represents work you developed. Violations of the academic code of conduct include, but are not limited to: cheating, plagiarism and collusion.

Personal Protective Equipment:

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is required and must be worn in any classroom, laboratory or shop where hazardous work is being performed. Examples of PPE include eye and face protection, head protection, hand protection, foot protection, hearing protection and respiratory protection. Your instructor will specify what PPE is required.

Computer/Lab:

WCTC's computer labs are to be used only for WCTC course-related work (including internet). Remote Desktop will be used during lab times to monitor student computer activity. Students who are reading e-mail, surfing, or working on projects for other classes may be asked to leave the lab. No food or beverages are allowed in any of the lab complexes.

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices:

Use of electronic devices will not be allowed unless there is an emergency situation. In that case, notify your instructor at the start of class.

Student Accommodations:

For academic accommodations, the student must approach the instructor to ask for the accommodation (after verification has been provided). If the student requests an accommodation card, a written classroom accommodation request will be provided for the student. The accommodation card will list the accommodation. Contact Special Service Coordinator at (262) 691-5210 or the Counselor for Students with Disabilities at (262) 691-5277 if you have any questions or need an accommodation card.

NOTE: For detailed information on all of WCTC's student policies, consult the student handbook, which can be found online at: <http://www.wctc.edu/books/student-policies/>

Acceptance of Responsibility for products and materials: (if applicable); separate document at end

Important WCTC Phone Numbers:

School closing:	262-691-5239
Campus Security:	262-691-5582
Pewaukee Police Department	262-691-5678

Semester Class Assignment Schedule

Session	Discussion/Topic	Assignment/Project/Activity
1.	<p>Class Overview How to READ the Camera Manual. Basic review of the camera functions and parts. Review MENU options and other important details to the control settings.</p>	<p>Introduction and Orientation to the course competencies and discuss proposed student photo field trip/exercise opportunity. Images due by final session (SEE SESSION 6)</p> <p>Lab Activities: Introduction to basic camera equipment needed for class. Discuss and compare equipment owned by student participants.</p> <p>Show samples of photography that can illustrate mistakes beginners make with their SLR camera.</p> <p>Project Assignment: Bring to class two or three samples of photos you have taken at with your current camera (digital or printed form). We will discuss what works or how to improve what doesn't. Bring to class, personal camera equipment to evaluate for capabilities <u>Both Due by session 2</u></p>
2.	<p>Working with the equipment you own. What makes a tripod good and how to use it correctly Know what's needed to set-up for a location photo shoot.</p> <p>Depth of field, F-Stops, Focus, Composition and Cropping in</p>	<p>Review and discuss photo samples brought in by students.</p> <p>Lab Activities: Examine each student's camera equipment and discuss what is possible to capture with it. Have students experiment with camera options, practice methods for panning and stop action photography. Review</p>

	<p>camera. Discuss student questions in detail about camera functions and shooting techniques.</p> <p>Students to review location instructions on-line the day before field trip for weather report and confirmation</p>	<p>examples.</p> <p>Discuss Field trip requirements for week 3.</p> <p>Project Assignment: Spend time photographing subjects in different lighting conditions outside. Do this at sunrise again throughout the day and as the sun is setting and perhaps even after dark in your neighborhood. Shoot wide angle and telephoto views. Try to improve your approach to the subject angle and overcome the limitations of your equipment. Try many angles and a few blur motion pictures. Use your tripod for a few shots and some without it. Bring in images for discussion. <u>Due session 4.</u></p>
3.	<p>FIELD TRIP or Location Shoot BE AT DESIGNATED LOCATION ON TIME AND READY TO START TAKING PICTURES. We will meet at 9:30 AM to NOON at the Subway Sub Shop in Downtown Waukesha. Located near the corner of Main and Barstow Streets. See my website for more details and weather announcements</p>	<p><u>Meet at designated location and receive assignment for the session, bring whatever equipment you have available. We will shoot in the area for at least two hours, the subjects listed on the assignment handout.</u></p> <p>Project Assignment: Bring images to class for discussion. <u>Due by Session 4</u></p> <p>Review locations possible to use for second field exercise students will complete. Note: This may be reviewed at an earlier time and can be scheduled at student's convenience.</p>
4.	<p>Vertical/Horizontal, Individuals or Groups, Rule of Thirds and Framing, Best wide and long zoom lens. Camera accessories that are handy. Developing the shot list for second field trip.</p>	<p>Review and discuss photo samples/notes brought in by students</p> <p>Lab Activities: Discuss session topics and watch a digital presentation. Practice in class techniques to hold camera properly. Detail approach to shooting selected location as a student exercise. Discuss class project for photo collage of field trip edited images.</p>

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		Project Assignment for session 5: Prep equipment and pre scout location if possible, for second field trip.
5.	FIELD TRIP 2 or Location Shoot BE AT DESIGNATED LOCATION ON TIME AND READY TO START TAKING PICTURES. We will meet at 9:30 AM to NOON at Horicon Marsh Visitor Center and adjoining area around the marsh	Project Assignment for session 6: Select your own images taken at several different locations or your images from the class field trips. Make copies of the images and crop, cut, arrange and paste them to a piece of poster board (or make a digital print) to make an interesting photo collage. Try to show your intended audience a photo layout that will effectively communicate your style and ideas. <u>Bring your creation to Session 6 and we will critique and discuss.</u>
6. Final	Short course wrap up, critique of collages and discussion. Review and discuss images brought in by students.	Review results of poster project, location photos exercises. Lab Activities: Spend time looking at photos from student's field experiences. Opportunity for final questions regarding specific photo challenges.

Photography Exercise: Due by session 6

Students will participate in the field trip experience or may elect photograph a location of their choosing at any time during the class schedule. The idea is to accomplish the assignment requirements. Each student should prepare the basic photo shot list and capture as many images on the list, as possible. The main the objective is to get at least five great images. Student images will be discussed in session 6, bring prints or digital files to final session in collage format.



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COURSE SYLLABUS **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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I have received, read and understand the following:

- Syllabus for this course
- Student code of conduct
- Cell phone/electronic device policy
- Attendance policy
- WCTC's computer lab policy, and if applicable
- WCTC's shop safety rules
- Acceptance of responsibility for products and materials.

I understand and accept that a violation of any of these policies can result in me being dropped from this course.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Return completed form to your instructor.