



WAUKESHA  
COUNTY TECHNICAL  
COLLEGE

## Night and Low Light Photography

(For Advanced Amateur Photographers)

203 617 001 CRN: 5209

### COURSE SYLLABUS

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Instructor: David Denemark	Office phone: 262-370-6200 home
Email: ddenemark@wctc.edu	Office hours & location: 8-10AM-home
Class Meets: June 14 – August 9, 2017 Wednesday 's for 7 weeks, 1:30pm - 3:50pm, <b>No class for July 4th Holiday</b>	Class Location: Room G-149 Plus 2 field trips on location, off campus
<b>Program Advisors:</b>	
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 in at night or in low light level situations. Subjects covered include: special equipment needed for night photography, how to capture images as the light levels change from early evening into the night darkness, how to photograph moving objects in low light, painting your subject with light using a small strobe and more. Most importantly, students will learn how to succeed in taking better photos of subjects in difficult lighting and weather conditions with their own equipment. Emphasis will be placed on quality photos of buildings, street and cityscapes and entertainment venues after dark. **This course includes FIELD TRIPS AT NIGHT.**

**Suggested reading** but not required: Available on line and possibly at your local bookstore.

***Night and Low-Light Photography: Professional Techniques from Experts for Artistic and Commercial Success*** (Paperback) By Jill Waterman, 2008, Amphoto Books, New York

*The Complete Guide to Night & Lowlight Digital Photography* By Michael Freeman, 2008, Lark Books, New York,

## GO TO MY WEB

For PDF files of class work

[http://www.daviddenenmarkphotography.com/WCTC\\_PHOTO\\_CLASSES.html](http://www.daviddenenmarkphotography.com/WCTC_PHOTO_CLASSES.html)

### Suggested Equipment:

1. You will need a digital or film camera with a wide to telephoto zoom lens and a **sturdy tripod**. An auxiliary flash is very helpful to have but not essential for good results. Get a good quality LED flashlight and or strobe/ring light unit.

**The ability to shoot in RAW image mode and process the files offers a major advantage for best results on field trips.**

2. A wide-angle 35mm (equivalent) lens that zooms to 200 mm or better is preferred but not essential for best results.

3. Computer at home to download and organize photos for class

4. Mini USB zip/thumb drive to bring your images to class for discussion. NO CD's. Other supplies to be determined

### Course Competencies:

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

1. Analyze and determine which is the best angle or position to photograph a subject in relation to surrounding light levels as the sun fades into darkness.
2. How to scout locations, take light readings and then prepare the right camera equipment and accessories to prevent problems in the field.
3. Understand and know how to take time exposures.
4. How to overcome the limitations of auto focus and "digital lag" when objects are moving in the frame.
5. Recognize what obstacles to avoid and how to stay in a safe shooting area on busy city sidewalks, streets and other locations while shooting with a tripod.
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 by light paint buildings and other subjects, using pocket strobes.
9. Use advanced camera features such as custom white balance and exposure bracketing.
10. Count on tips and tricks discussed to get those great nighttime postcard style photos of cityscapes, building, streets and other venues.

### 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](http://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. The College’s Title IX Coordinator, the Vice President of Student Services, can be reached at 262-691-5240. For more information, including links to community and confidential resources, visit [www.wctc.edu/sexual-misconduct](http://www.wctc.edu/sexual-misconduct).

### **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

## Class Assignment Schedule

Session	Discussion/Topic	Assignment/Project/Activity
1.	Class Overview	<p><b>Introduction and Orientation to the course competencies and discuss proposed student action photo field trip/exercise opportunity. Images assignments due each session.</b></p> <p><b>Lab Activities: Introduction to basic camera equipment used by professionals. Discuss and compare equipment owned by student participants.</b></p> <p><b>Show samples of good and bad photography at night and indoor.</b></p> <p><b>Project Assignment: Bring to class two or three samples of photos you will/have taken at</b></p>

		<p>night or in low light levels 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 <b>READ CAMERA MANUAL</b> <u>Both Due by session 2</u></p>
2.	<p>How to plan your photo challenge. Working with the equipment you own. What makes a tripod good and how to use it the right way. Know about the subject before choosing your angle and location.</p> <p>Depth of field, Focus, Composition and Cropping. Discuss field trip details.</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, light painting. Review examples.</p> <p>Project Assignment: Spend time photographing moving objects in different lighting conditions outside. Do this at sunrise or before and again as the sun is setting and 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 most shots and some without it. Save images for discussion. <u>Due session 4.</u></p>
3.	<p>Field Trip or Location Shoot This session will begin one hour before sunset and will end about an hour or so after it gets dark. <b>NOTE: WE START LATER AND NOT AT NORMAL CLASS TIME. About 7:30PM till dark</b></p>	<p><u>Meet at designated location and receive assignment for the session, bring whatever strobes or flashlights you have available. We may use them to light paint an object.</u> Project Assignment: Bring images to class for discussion. Do a collage if you like. <u>Due by Session 4</u> 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, Developing the shot list for field trip. How to <i>light paint</i> with pocket strobes or flashlight.</p>	<p>Review and discuss photo samples/notes brought in by students Lab Activities: Discuss session topics and watch a digital presentation. Practice in class techniques to light paint. Detail approach to shooting selected night location as a student exercise. Discuss class project for photo</p>

		collage of field trip edited images. Project Assignment for session 5: Prep equipment for field trip. Review settings for best results.
5.	Field Trip or Location Shoot This session will begin one hour before sunset and will end about an hour or so after it gets dark. NOTE: WE START LATER AND/NOT AT NORMAL CLASS TIME. About 7:30 PM or till dark.	<u>Meet at designated location and receive assignment for the session</u>  Project Assignment for session 6: Select your own images taken at several different locations or an event you attended or your images from the class field trips. Make copies of the best 5-9 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.
6.	Critique of collages and discussion. Review and discuss images taken at night event.	Review results of poster project, night photos exercises.  Lab Activities: Spend time looking at photos from student's field experiences. Opportunity for final questions regarding specific photo challenges.
7.	Course Wrap up and discussion of newest images	

**Student Photography Exercise:**

Students will participate in the field trip experience or may elect to 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 objective is to get at least a few great night views on film or chip. Student images will be discussed in classroom sessions, bring prints or digital files to final session in collage format.

NOTE: This schedule is **preliminary** to give you an idea of what the course objectives and requirements are. The instructor reserves the right to adjust this schedule as the semester progresses; changes will be talked about in class and posted on Blackboard.