

Digital Photography Basics – and More

NSCC Continuing Education Course – Lunenburg Campus (Bridgewater)

8 weeks, 3 hours/week, Winter Semester



Instructor: Kas Stone

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Course Overview:

Becoming a good photographer takes some basic technical know-how, along with time, practice and visual inspiration. This 8-week course is designed for amateur photographers who want to better understand their digital cameras and develop skills for making images they will be proud of. No previous experience is necessary; any type of digital camera is welcome (DSLR, compact system, point-and-shoot). Weekly take-home notes are provided.

Detailed Outline of Topics Covered:

Part 1 – Introduction & Overview (1 class)

- Technical and artistic factors that influence image effectiveness
- How the camera works
- The digital process from image capture to final output
- Camera gear: camera body, sensor, lenses, accessories, shooting modes and format (JPEG vs RAW)

Part 2 – Exposure (2 classes)

- Light: intensity, direction, quality and colour, and how the camera measures light
- The Exposure Triangle: ISO, shutter speed and aperture/f-stop
- How to use the EV system, Histograms and 'Blinkies' to determine appropriate exposure
- How to deal with exposure challenges: snow, darkness, high-contrast scenes

Part 3 – Image Scope & Focus (2 classes)

- Field of View and lens focal length
- Depth of Field and Point of Focus
- Sharpness and motion: how to avoid or capitalize on camera/subject movement

Part 4 – Visual Design (2 classes)

- Photographic vision: inspiration, intent, subjects, stories, styles and purpose
- 'Rules' of Composition: defining the picture space, placement of subject and supporting elements
- Tips and strategies for effective visual design

Part 5 – Image Processing and Evaluating (1 class)

- Downloading and management of digital files
- Post-processing possibilities for image editing and output
- Image evaluation: students are encouraged to bring a photograph for discussion

What To Bring:

- Your digital camera (point & shoot, compact system or DSLR) **AND** user manual
- Fresh battery and memory card
- Any lenses and other camera gear you wish to learn more about
- Notebook and pen (instructor will also provide a page of overview notes for each class)