

Syllabus: Digital Black & White Photography
Saddleback College Community Education

- ◆ **Section Number:** 9135
- ◆ **Course Prerequisites:** *Digital Photo One*
- ◆ **Instructor:** Laura Hoffman
E-mail: lhoffman@saddleback.edu
- ◆ **Class Meeting Days:** Mondays, 10/24/16 – 12/12/16
- ◆ **Time:** Classes begin at 6:00pm. exceptions: 2 field trips; 11/7 & 12/05 will begin earlier
- ◆ **Location of Class:** LRC 258 Saddleback College, Mission Viejo campus:
28000 Marguerite Parkway, Mission Viejo, CA 92692 949 582-4646

- ◆ **Objectives**
 - This class is designed for serious digital photography students who want to build on composition and lighting skills in the world of gray scale or black & white photography. Students must own digital dSLR cameras, rangefinders, mirrorless 4x3 cameras or any camera that can accommodate a hot shoe flash attachment, with full manual capability.
 - Emphasis will be placed on portrait, abstract, editorial, and scenic photography in Black & White.
 - Expand digital darkroom skills and get the most out of image editing software.
 - Hands-on experience in the field, on location and in-class camera work, as well as critiques and a portfolio review will make this a comprehensive digital black & white photography class.

- ◆ **Requirements**
 - Camera (dSLR or rangefinder with hot shoe), tripod, access to a computer.
 - Back up all work on flash drives or external hard drives.
 - Must submit photography to an on-line photography gallery for review.
 - Must have access to Adobe Photoshop image editing software.

- ◆ **Exercises**

Students will receive handouts leading to resources they can begin using immediately. Assignments are designed to be fun, so that students can apply lighting, composition and digital darkroom techniques to create memorable photographs and push growing photography skills to the next level of expertise, for more creative control.

Digital Black & White Photography is an intermediate class for serious digital photography students. Create a compelling portfolio of work, building on composition, practical exposure experience, image editing and practicing photography as an art form. Build on composition,

metering and lighting skills in the world of black & white photography. Use dynamic range to its full advantage using exposure and the digital darkroom. We'll cover portrait, editorial, abstract and scenic photography. Build an exciting and compelling portfolio of work through field trips, lecture, demo and hands on experience. Enjoy class field trips offering hands on experience.

Lab time is built in for individual instruction and demonstration. Coursework will include demonstrations, image-rich presentations, and spotlights on featured artists, guest speakers and in-class constructive critique. Students will be introduced to new photographers and artists to inspire them to develop a body of work that reflects that individual student's unique spirit and vision

◆ Learning Outcomes

- Develop exposure skills on location, using ambient light and image processing skills in order to control dynamic range.
- Encourage creative investigation of formal and conceptual issues.
- To develop a competitive portfolio and body of work, for exhibition and portfolio review.

1. There will be 2 field trips: Note the class time's change.

- a. Orange Circle to enjoy the experience of editorial photography.
- b. Mission San Juan Capistrano

First, a here is a great site so you can....

Get to know YOUR camera:

http://www.steves-digicams.com/hardware_reviews.html

Required Textbook #1:

"Mastering Black & White Digital Photography"

Michael Freeman

ISBN 1-57990-707-5

Required Textbook #2:

"Digital Black & White Photography"

John Beardsworth

ISBN 1-59200-472-5

Available on Amazon.com

Fall 2016 Course outline:

10/24/16 Monday 6:00-9:00

Introduction to class, discuss strategies for successful photography

Determine level of expertise in class

How we see

Art of Black & White

Image Editing: Channel Mixing

Case Study #1 Assignment: *RGB into Black and White*

10/31/16 Monday 6:00-9:30

Review Case Study #1: *RGB into Black & White* Photography assignment

Editorial Photography

Spotlight: W. Eugene Smith & Robert Frank

Sky libraries and landscape: Increasing Dynamic Range

Discuss field trip: Street/Editorial photography: photo essay challenge

11/07/16 Monday 4:00 – 8:00

Field Trip: Orange Traffic Circle. Meet at this time: 7:00

Discuss the location shoot 7:00-8:00 at Felix International Café (Cuban food)

11/14/16 Monday 6:00 – 9:30

Critique Editorial Photography: Results from Orange Circle Field Trip

Lecture: The Masters, The Art of Black & White; spotlight on Ansel Adams & Minor White

Explain assignment: *Emulate the Masters*

Introduce Case Study #2: Solving Problem of the Sky

11/28/16 Monday 6:00-9:30

Review *Emulate the Masters* project

Solving Problem of the Sky: Metering & Maximizing Dynamic Range & Zone System

Metering for best exposure, HDR (without looking like HDR)

Discuss assignment: Case Study #2: Problem of the Sky

12/05/16 Monday 2:00– 5:00pm

Field Trip #2: On location. Meet at 1:45

Mission San Juan Capistrano: Fine Art Photography Project Texture, architectural details, abstraction

12/12/16 Monday 6:00-9:30

Review Case Study #2 results: *Problem of the Sky – Solved!* Assignment

Critique *Fine Art* Photography Project: San Juan Capistrano, Printed and mounted.

Tasks and schedule:

1. Due: 10/31/16: **Case Study #1: RGB into Gray scale**. Post images to BW Class Gallery. Print and mat best *Pattern* Image for presentation.
2. Due: 11/14/16: Review **Editorial Photo Essay**. Post images to BW Gallery.
3. Due: 11/14/16: Bring in zone assignment shoot images (case study 2, Problem of the Skies) and portrait images to work on: Lab time. Work on Problem of the Skies, Intro to Photoshop for Photographers
4. Due: 11/28/16: **Emulate the Masters** photography. Post images to BW Gallery.
5. Due: 12/12/16: Results from **Case Study #2: Problem of the Skies – Solved!** experience. Post images to BW Class Gallery.
6. Due: 12/12/16: Fine Art Photography at The Mission (SJC) - printed and mounted due. Post images to BW Gallery & Print.

Field Trips:

Editorial Photography at The Orange Circle 4:00-8:00pm

11/07/16, Sunset is 4:54

Meet at the Orange Circle. Role call: 7:00

Meeting Place: The fountain in the middle of the circle,

Location: Glassell & Chapman Ave Traffic Circle middle

100 N. Glassell, Orange

Orange, CA 92866

Landmarks in the Circle:

Watson's Drugstore on Chapman, 116 E Chapman Ave, Orange

Wells Fargo, 101 E. Chapman Ave, Orange

Felix Café, 36 Plaza Square, Orange, CA. 92866

Role will be called at 7:00pm sharp at our meeting place. Then we will go to Felix Cafe to discuss the shoot. Class will be dismissed at 8:00.

Parking: There are plenty of public parking places off of Glassell and the circle, Olive and many points around the Circle.

Bring your camera, tripod, a flashlight or penlight and a notebook to record information.

Dress warm, it can get cool and breezy.

Objective: You will have a purpose for your photographic essay. You are a photojournalist - with the task of creating a specific photographic documentary or story.
Create 5 black and white images. Your job is to illustrate a specific news story or documentary.

Fine Art Photography at Mission San Juan Capistrano 2:00-5:00pm

12/05/16, Sunset is 4:44pm

26801 Ortega Hwy, San Juan Capistrano

Meeting place: The fountain right outside the entrance gate where you will pay \$9.00 admission (seniors are \$8.00).

Role call: 2:00pm sharp

See field trip document for more information.

Here is how we are sharing images:

<http://smugmug.com/>

(Account Required for Photo I, Photo II and Photo III)

Learn more about Smugmug here:

<http://youtube.com/smugmug>

Pricing plans:

<http://www.smugmug.com/features>

Check out past work on our own community on Saddleback:

<http://www.smugmug.com/community/Saddleback>

For help in establishing a new account, go to:

<http://help.smugmug.com/customer/portal/articles/1229963-walkthrough-your-new-smugmug-site-in-5-minutes-or-less->

Start adding photos, to test your new account and create a bio before class begins. This is how we are going to view your work.

<http://www.smugmug.com/help/upload-pictures>

Always bring your assignment on a back up flash drive or CD ROM just in case our network is down.

Get stuck?

Help desk at Smugmug: <http://help.smugmug.com/>

Identify yourself as a saddleback student in your e-mail.

***Important:**

Here is good news! Smugmug has provided a new way to give new Smugmug accounts that valuable and wonderful student **50% OFF discount** when you open up your new account.

Here is how to get it:

Click on to this link:

<http://xinacat.smugmug.com/SmugMug>

Use this password to "unlock" this special page:
SmugMugXina

Click the *Try it Now* button to start your free 14 day trial!
Credit card payment does not have to happen until 14 days after you initially sign up – to make sure you are pleased with the class and website.

Resources to help you navigate around your own camera:

<http://www.steves-digicams.com/camera-reviews/>

Or Google: Steves Digicams reviews

Find your camera from any of the drop down menus on the left side. For example, if you have a Canon, click on “Canon,” then select your camera from the link. Click through and find a thorough review and detailed tour through your own camera.

<http://www.dpreview.com/>

This is an excellent resource for finding out reviews and news about camera equipment you are interested in.