

**Syllabus: Digital Photography I (Beginning Digital Photography)**  
**Saddleback College Community Education**

- ◆ **Section Number:** 11166
- ◆ **Instructor:** Laura Hoffman  
E-mail: lhoffman@saddleback.edu
- ◆ **Class Meeting Days:** Thursdays, 9/11/2017 – 10/16/2017
- ◆ **Time:** 6:00 -9:00pm
- ◆ **Location of Class:** Saddleback College BGS 356, Mission Viejo campus:  
28000 Marguerite Parkway, Mission Viejo, CA 92692 949 582-4646. MAP link:  
<https://www.saddleback.edu/uploads/maps/map.pdf>  
Park in Lot 9. Parking is \$5 or buy a semester pass from Police Station \$40/semester. For more parking info: <https://www.saddleback.edu/police/parking-services-and-faqs>  
Bring your fully charged camera to each class each week.

**Digital Photography I: lecture/critique/demo/hands on – 6 weeks**

Great review course for photographers of all levels. Practical and accelerated course designed for lifelong learners to get to know the digital camera and power in preserving one's own artistic vision and memories. Go beyond the "lucky shot" – instead, predict your digital photography results and grow your passion for photography. Design better images using composition skills purposefully, learn how to use light and manage and edit your images. Best of all, you'll discover how to see differently and work more creatively.

Lab time is built in for individual instruction and demonstration. Coursework will include demonstrations, image-rich presentations, spotlights on featured artists 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.

◆ **Objectives**

- Design better images with purposeful composition.
- Proper use of exposure and camera controls to achieve optimal exposure, lens / focal length choices, memory and file formats, shutter effects as well as lighting, color temperature, perspective and depth of field.
- Grow your passion for photography
- Get great photos of your friends and loved ones every time!
- Best of all, you'll learn to see differently and work more creatively.

- ◆ **Exercises:** This is a six-session class. Assignments are designed to be fun, with applied lighting and composition techniques. Use camera controls, lighting and design principles to create memorable photographs. Experience hands-on instruction, demonstrations and individual constructive critiques in a small class setting.

## ◆ Requirements

- Camera (dSLR or rangefinder with hot shoe), tripod highly recommended, access to a computer.
- Must submit photography to on-line photography gallery for review.
- Back up all work on flash drives or external hard drives.

## ◆ Learning Outcomes

- Develop technical skills and familiarity with camera functions, lens specifications, file formats and memory requirements in digital cameras.
- Develop visual literacy and critical analysis of photography, applying the fundamentals of design (arrangement of elements in the frame).
- Demonstrate technical and artistic competencies of employing available light as well as artificial strobe lighting (flash).
- Apply the use of depth of field and shutter speed choices as compositional elements that support image content.
- Competency in conceptual problem solving and narrative use of photography as a form of artistic expression.
- Output and publish final media to appropriate formats, including print, digital file formats and web pages.

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

Get to know YOUR camera:

[http://www.steves-digicams.com/hardware\\_reviews.html](http://www.steves-digicams.com/hardware_reviews.html)

### **Required Textbook:**

- ***Textbook(s): required:*** Gatcum, Chris. *The Beginner's Photography Guide*, Dorling Kindersley (DK) Limited, 2016.

### **Recommended Textbooks:**

Peterson, Bryan: *Learning to See Creatively*, Amphoto Books...2015

Peterson, Bryan: *Understanding Exposure*, Amphoto Books... 2016

*Both publications are available on Amazon.com*

## **Course outline:**

### **9/11/17 Thursday, Section 1:**

Introduction to class, discuss strategies for successful photography

Determine level of expertise in class

Camera operations explained – abandon the ‘Auto’ control forever.

How the meter “thinks”

Digital Workflow best practices

Aperture Priority

*Depth of Field* Assignment

### **9/18/17 Thursday, Section 2:**

Review the *Depth of Field* assignment

The Nature of Light

Composition & Design

Lighting strategies: Go beyond flash

Location Photography assignment: *In Your Own Backyard* assignment

### **9/25/17 Thursday, Section 3:**

Critique *In Your Own Backyard* assignment

Create memorable portraits: Practical portrait photography

Street photography, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Photographers

Introduce Portrait assignment: *Memorable Portrait*

*For next week: Bring in camera, tripod and all lenses.*

### **10/02/17 Thursday, Week 4:**

Critique: Memorable Portrait assignment result

Metering and Exposure exercise: How the meter “thinks”

Low Light and working with available light

Lenses and optics exercise

Wide angle vs. telephoto exercise (Pp. 34-45 LTSC book)

Conceptual final project introduction

### **10/09/17 Thursday, Week 5:**

Field trip: *Laguna Beach, Heisler Park (Weather permitting)*

375 Cliff Drive, Laguna Beach, CA 92651-2332

4:45 – 7:45 MEET at Gazebo behind Heisler Park by 4:45. Sunset is around 6:26

Optional: Meet at 3:15 for lunch at Las Brisas (patio) before our photo-adventure!

### **10/16/17 Thursday, Week 6:**

Review lens test results: Wide angle vs. telephoto exercise

Critique *final conceptual project results*

Prepare for Discover Photography II Class

### **Tasks and schedule:**

1. Due 9/18/17: ***Depth of Field Comparison***. Post images to DP1 Class Gallery.
2. Due: 9/25/17: ***In Your Own Backyard***. Post images to DP1 Class Gallery.
3. Due: 10/02/17: ***Memorable Portrait***. Post images to DP1 Class Gallery.
4. Due: 10/16/17: **Field trip results**: Post 3-5 images to DP1 Class Gallery.

5. Due: 10/16/17: **Lens Test & Conceptual Final Project**. Post images to DP1 Class Gallery.

**Tasks:**

1. Order books ASAP – recommend Amazon.com
2. 9/18/17 or sooner: Establish Smugmug account: <http://www.smugmug.com>
3. 10/02/17 Bring in your tripod, camera and all lenses if you have an ILC camera.
4. Complete assignments: Upload up to 2 images for each assignment in Smugmug by due dates

(Bring back up images on flash drive every week).

**Here is how we are sharing images:**

**NOTE: We now have our very own Smugmug registration page made just for Saddleback photo students – this entitles you to a special discount. \***

<https://www.smugmug.com/>

Account is required in order to participate in the classes.

**Get started:**

<http://help.smugmug.com/customer/en/portal/topics/287372-new-to-smugmug/articles>

<http://help.smugmug.com/>

Quick start on Smugmug:

<http://help.smugmug.com/customer/portal/articles/702453>

Pricing plans:

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

For help in establishing a new account, go to:

<http://school.smugmug.com/SmugMug-Tips/SmugMug-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. Example:

<https://xinacat.smugmug.com/Sample-Photos/>

Always bring your assignment on a back up flash drive or disc 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: Available only once.

[secure.smugmug.com/signup/form?coupon=saddlebacksmug](https://secure.smugmug.com/signup/form?coupon=saddlebacksmug)

**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.