

1-Day Photography Course Syllabus - August 2009

THEORY LESSON #1 'Basic Photography'

Know Your Camera

- Types of cameras.
- How does a DSLR work?

Getting Started:

- Basic Controls.
- Avoiding Common Pitfalls.

Taking a Photo:

- Avoiding Camera Shake.
- Photographic Technique.
- Reviewing Photos.

Composition – Top 10 Tips

THEORY LESSON #2 'Exposure'

Basic Exposure/Brightness Theory

- Collecting the 'right amount' of light.
- Contrast limitations on cameras.
- Aperture / Shutter speed balance.
- P 'Program' Mode.
- Calculating Exposure.
- Auto Metering / Evaluative Metering:
- Tricky Exposure Situations.
- Overcoming Tricky Exposures.

Exposure Compensation:

- Pre-Lighten or Darken Exposures.
- Correcting Poor Exposure.
- Creative Exposures.

Histograms

THEORY LESSON #3 'Aperture & Depth of Field'

Aperture & Depth of Field

- What is aperture?
- What is f/#?
- Effect of Aperture = Depth of Field:
- Shallow D.o.F :

- Deep D.o.F:
- Handy hint to remember D.o.F
- Distribution of D.o.F.
- Maximizing Depth of Field.
- Av (**A**erture **V**alue / Aperture Priority) mode.

THEORY LESSON #4 'Shutter Speed and Movement'

Shutter Speed & Movement

- What is shutter speed?
- Fast Shutter Speed Effects:
- Slow shutter speed effects:
- Painting with light.
- Long exposures.
- Timers and Remotes.
- Drive modes.
- Tv (**T**ime **V**alue / Shutter Priority) mode.
- Cool tricks with slow shutter speeds

THEORY LESSON #5 'ISO & The Exposure Triangle'

ISO

- What is ISO?
- ISO Misconceptions.
- Advantages of Fast ISO:
- Disadvantages of Fast ISO:
- Noise.
- Advantages of Slow ISO:

The Exposure Triangle:

- Aperture, Shutter speed & ISO are your 3 creative tools.

Advanced Camera Modes

- M (Manual) mode.
- Bulb

THEORY LESSON #6 'Lighting'

Lighting

- Lighting is everything.
- Morning / evenings.
- Harsh midday lighting.
- Flat / soft / indirect light / shade.
- Low Light.
- Front light
- Side light
- Back light

Flash

- More than just for dark scenes!
- Fill-in flash.
- Highlighting rain or snow.
- Add 'Catch-light' glint to eyes.
- Varying flash intensity.
- Inbuilt vs External Flash.
- Bounce Flash.

White Balance

- What is White Balance?
- Not all white light is white.
- Camera vs our eyes detecting white.
- What is Auto White Balance (AWB)
- Changing White Balance.
- Changing White Balance later.

Filters:

- Polarizing Filters
- UV & Skylight Filters

THEORY LESSON #7 'Lenses'**Lenses**

- Standard Lenses
- Wide-Angle Lenses
- Telephoto Lenses
- Other Lenses:
- What is Focal Length?
- Focal Length & Depth of Field.
- Zoom Lenses.
- Prime Lenses.
- What is Lens Speed?
- Understanding Lens Naming.
- Image Stabilization.
- Using manual focus
- Quick tip for water proof cameras

THEORY LESSON #8 'Practical Photography'

The Digital Advantage:

- Check & Try Again
- Take Lots, Cull Later

Camera Care

- Dirty sensors.
 - Cleaning dirty sensors.
 - Self cleaning.
 - Manual cleaning.
 - Avoiding dirty sensors.

JPG vs RAW

- The debate.
- The differences.
- In Summary.

Post Production

- Example results only.
- What Adobe Lightroom can do for you.
- Apply any effects later (eg B&W).

Tips for Turning Pro

- Get published.
- Competitions.
- Portfolios.
- Learn post production.
- Business cards.