

Basic Digital Photography

**Course
Equipment
Requirements**

Digital camera and manual.

Instructor

Jan C. Doddy, Digital Commercial / Advertising and Aerial Photographer. Owns and operates a successful commercial photography business since 1990 with several commercial accounts nation wide. Trained under several Master Photographers for Portraiture and Digital photography. In 1994 became a member of the Professional Photographers Association.

Overview

This course is designed for teachers and community persons to learn and understand the field of digital photography. During this course students will learn about taking better pictures through an enhanced understanding of their camera functions and through the use of computer based digital photo software. The instructor will discuss topics such as white balance, creating Sepia or Black and White images, storage media, computer image manipulation, downloading and sending images, sizing images, preparing images for e-mail and using images as screensavers and wallpaper. Students and the instructor will review image storing and archiving, creating CD's, printing, travel tips and more. Finally, students will also learn how to take better pictures through an increased understanding of lighting, aperture and shutter speeds. At the conclusion of the course students will be better prepared to use their digital cameras and computer based software in order to maximize image quality and enjoyment.

Learning Goals

- Students will become more familiar with all the settings and functions of your camera and to know when and why to make specific adjustments
- Students will develop the skill to create a well composed image through lighting and proper camera settings
- Students will be able to create a photo album of images on a CD to be shared with family and friends

Audience

Teachers and Community members

Accreditation

16 - Act 48 Hours

Course Duration

16 hours

Basic Digital Photography

Classes are one night per week – 2 hours each night for 8 weeks

Night 1 –

- Intro, housekeeping, basic operation of your camera, what are all these buttons, setting the “ASA” and “White Balance”, storage media, flash settings

Night 2 –

- Advanced operation of your camera, F-stops, shutter speeds, mega pixels and resolution, file types and sizing, exposure and the “Histogram”

Night 3 –

- How to take good images, flash, lighting, composition

Night 4 –

- Your computer and the digital camera

Night 5 –

- File size, storage, creating CD's, editing programs, file management programs

Night 6 –

- Printing

Night 7 –

- Web site images, e-mailing images, wall paper and screen saver images

Night 8 –

- What to keep in your camera bag, how to purchase a new camera, travel tips, questions and answers, critique

This program consists of a Power Point presentation, handouts, live demonstrations and hands on for the students to work and become more comfortable with their camera.

- *Students are asked to bring their camera manuals with them*

Introduction, Course objectives, Basic camera operations, What are all these buttons, ASA and White Balance

In this session, the students will learn about the basic functions of a digital camera and what all of the buttons do

- Students will learn what the icons next to each button mean, when to use them. You will learn how to enter the camera's menu, scroll through and understand all the settings
- Students will learn about the "ASA" setting, what it is, when and why it needs to be changed
- Students will learn about "White Balance", how important it is to the final image, where and how to adjust it
- Students will learn about the different types of digital media cards, formatting them, when and why
- Students will learn about the different flash settings, auto flash, forcing it on, and the "Red Eye Reduction"

Advanced operation of your camera, File types and sizing, exposure and the "Histogram"

In this session, the students will learn about the more advanced settings through the different menu areas of the camera, how "F-Stops" and the "Shutter Speed" affect the exposure, and what the "Histogram" is all about

- Students will learn about the more advanced settings in the many menu levels
- Students will learn about the special effects that can be created with the different settings such as "Sepia" and "B+W" and others
- Students will learn about exposure, how to adjust it through the "F-Stop" of "Aperture", and "Shutter Speeds", and what "Compensation" is for, when to use "manual" setting versus "Auto and Program" modes
- Students will learn about file types – RAW – TIFF – JPEG, when to use them, file sizes and how to change them and why, what compression is and when to use it
- Students will learn about the "Histogram" and how to correctly interpret it and what effects the exposure has on it

How to take good images, flash, lighting, composition

In this session, the students will learn the basics of lighting, both natural and flash, proper composition, when to turn the camera and why

- Students will learn proper composition, how to fill the frame and why it is important to the file size, the "Rule of the Thirds"
- Students will learn how to make good use of natural light, when to use "Fill Flash" and why
- Students will learn how the shutter speed and aperture effect the depth of field, how to use it to control or show motion
- Students will learn the effects lenses have on an image, special lenses such as wide angle, telephoto and macro

Your computer and the digital camera

In this session, the students will learn about computer specs needed for digital photography, the different ways to get images transferred to your computer, how to save images to your hard drive, file management

- Students will learn about hard drive space, how much is needed, whether to add a second one to their system
- Students will learn about computer speed and it's effects on the operation, how fast do you really need, RAM – how important is it and how much is needed
- Students will learn how to transfer images to their computer, the devices needed for their digital media, the difference between “USB” and “Firewire” connectivity and how to connect and set up
- Students will learn about file structure management, some software programs to help manage your images, how to rename images that makes sense

File size, storage, creating CD's, editing programs, file management programs

In this session, the students will learn why file sizes effect storage on their computer, creating CD's and which to purchase, editing and file management programs will be demonstrated

- Students will learn how different file types and compression effect the image size both physically and capacity, when do you need to compress an image – the cause and effects
- Students will learn about storing images on one or multiple hard drives, making back ups and why
- Students will learn how to make CD's as back ups or to send to their family and friends
- Students will see how different software programs work to edit images and for file management

Printing

In this session, we will discuss sizing images for printing at home or through a service bureau and how to get them there, how to set up their printer for different photo paper

- Students will review files sizes, how to properly size images for printing through editing software
- Students will learn about the different types of “Photo Paper” and how to set the printer for each
- Students will learn the difference between “Dye Sublimation” and “InkJet” printers and why to use one over the other
- Students will learn about “Direct Printing” and “Digital Print Order Format” aka “DPOF”
- We will discuss the differences between inexpensive services and professionals

Website Images, E-mailing images, Wall Paper and Screen Saver Images

In this session, we will discuss how to properly size your favorite images and save them for wall paper or a screen saver on your computer, properly size images for e-mailing or using on a website

- Students will learn how to properly size images for e-mailing and compress them for faster transmission
- Students will learn how to properly size images for websites and compress them to conserve space on a website
- Students will learn how to save images on their computer as a wall paper or a screensaver

What to keep in your camera bag, How to purchase a new camera, Travel tips, Questions and Answers, Critique

- I will provide a list of items, tools and what-knots to keep in your camera bag to get you out of a pinch
- I will discuss things to think about prior to purchasing your new camera
- Students will learn tips on traveling to help keep their equipment safe and operational for the duration of their trip
- Last minute questions and comments
- Students will be receive a “Critique” sheet to fill out and turn in at the conclusion of the class