

The How To Get To Know Your Stuff Photography Course Outline

Part One - What It's All About

In The Beginning - Photography means drawing with light and is the modern method of story telling society's images be they record shots or artistic impressions. It is a mechanical and electronic operation which records the light illuminating a subject onto a storage medium that imprints the image on film or digital card. These originals allow you to make copies on paper or as a digital file to be viewed on a screen. To understand more completely how your camera does this you must first understand one constant in image making. All film, all light meters, all good processing, all CCD chips in digital cameras and all computer printers are designed with an expected result of 18% reflectancy. To improve your photography you need to understand light, light meters and their control over exposure as well as the camera and it's controls.

The Light

Learn to "see the light"

Light Metering

Making meters read right

Exposure Value Controls

There are three controls: The aperture - The shutter - And "you"

Part Two - Tools of the Trade

Tripods

Your best control guarantee

Cameras:

A Manual Camera, A Standard Camera or A Professional Camera

Which one is the right one for you

Lenses

The most important tools in your camera bag

Filters

Find out how and why filters improve or exaggerate an image

The Flash

Understand them so they deliver the necessary performance

Handheld Meters

Always be correct no matter what kind of light

Gadget Bags

The proper tool box for your camera equipment

Part Three - Finding The Edge

• **Photographers don't take pictures they make them** •

Where to Start

With the right combination of visual ability and equipment knowledge

Creating The Image With:

The Aperture - Control of your depth of field or zone of focus

The Shutter - Control the time light gets to fall on the film or CCD

Composition

Learn the rules of composition until they become second nature then find as many ways as possible to break them

Visualizing

Photographers visualize an image before the shutter is released

Reflecting

Do your images live up to your expectations?

The Point

Photography is much like learning how to play a musical instrument. Using a point and shoot or a program mode is like listening to someone else play while you appreciate their work. When you take control of the instrument by understanding what it can do and have learned the basic skills you can start to imitate other artists. Once you have mastered the instrument you can start composing your own works. There will be a time when you will be satisfied with the images you have drawn with light and anyone who sees them may start to recognize the work and perhaps want to imitate you. Having an idea of basics is only the beginning. It is now time to practice, practice, practice and fine tune your skills by making mistakes you can learn from as well as successes you can be proud of.