

Starting Out In Photography (Autumn 2023)

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Goals: This class serves as an introduction to photography. The goal is to teach you how to use a camera and how to take quality photographs. You will learn from a combination of classroom instruction, experimentation, and in-class feedback.

Most photographers only learn how to operate a camera. My goal is to take you beyond that and help you learn how to express yourself through photography.

Equipment needed: A camera and lens capable of shooting in manual mode. Cell phone cameras are permissible, but it is highly recommended that you use a dedicated camera if at all possible. They are simply far more powerful tools. Some effects, such as shallow depth of field, are difficult to create on cell phone cameras.

Memory cards are needed to store photos taken in each camera.

If possible, bring your camera manual to the first class session.

Textbooks: None! But, if you'd like to learn more, I have included a list of recommended reading at the end of this syllabus.

Homework: There is no mandatory homework. We will do our best to provide opportunities for practicing what we learn during classes. But students are encouraged to take photographs during the week and send them to angie@theplacechangesme.com. We can then look at them together in class so as to provide feedback, answer any questions that have come up, and enhance everyone's learning. I will show my own new work in class so that you can critique me as well.

Classes are from 2 to 4 pm on the dates indicated below.

September 24: Introductions to the class, your classmates, and your camera. Practice using basic camera controls in class.

Bring your camera manual, if possible.

October 29: The exposure triangle.

The three most basic settings in photography are shutter speed, aperture, and ISO. These three settings are collectively known as the exposure triangle. Each setting affects

the other. And each affects the amount of light that enters the camera producing a different effect on the final image. Balancing these three settings is a key concept in photography.

White balance allows us to correct the way cameras see color. A human brain typically knows what colors should look like and adjusts what we see. For example, white foam under yellow light will look white to a human. But a camera has no brain, so it sees exactly what is there. Without white balance correction, it will see the foam as having a golden hue.

November 19: White balance and the creative eye.

Recommendation: Go to the National Art Gallery or any other art museum or gallery. Study the work you see. Don't just take a moment to glance at it. Take some time. Study it intensely. You need not limit yourself to looking at photography. In fact, photographers benefit greatly from studying painting!

December 3: Putting it all together.

We will meet at the Washington Printmakers Gallery and go for a photo walk in Georgetown. We will put together what we have learned in the previous two classes to use them to create interesting photos of the Georgetown neighborhood in Washington, D.C.

Signed permission slips must be turned in to participate.

Recommended Reading

Barnbaum, Bruce, *The Art Of Photography: A Personal Approach To Artistic Expression*, 2nd ed., San Rafael: Rocky Nook, 2017.

Barnbaum, Bruce, *The Essence Of Photography: Seeing And Creativity*, 2nd ed., San Rafael: Rocky Nook, 2020.

Barr, George, *Why Photographs Work: 52 Great Images: Who Made Them, What Makes Them Special And Why*, San Rafael: Rocky Nook, 2011.

Peterson, Bryan, *Understanding Exposure, How To Shoot Great Photographs With Any Camera*, 4th ed., Amphoto Books, 2016.

Szarkowski, John, *Looking At Photographs: 100 Pictures From The Collection Of The Museum Of Modern Art*, 2009.

Szarkowski, John, *The Photographer's Eye*, New York: The Museum Of Modern Art, 2007.

Tal, Guy, *The Interior Landscape: The Landscape On Both Sides Of The Camera: Reflections On Art, Creativity, Expression, And A Life In Photography*, San Rafael: Rocky Nook, 2022.

Tal, Guy, *Another Day Not Wasted: Meditations In Photography, Art, And Wildness*, 2nd ed., San Rafael: Rocky Nook, 2021.

Wolf, Sasha, *PhotoWork: Forty Photographers On Process And Practice*, New York: Aperture, 2019.

Permission Slip

Dear Parent or Guardian:

As part of the Starting Out In Photography class offered by the Washington Printmakers Gallery, we would like to invite your child to participate in a planned photo walk around Georgetown. This will provide the opportunity to practice what we learned in class by taking real world photographs.

The photo walk is planned for December __, 2023. It will consist of a walking tour through the Georgetown neighborhood. I anticipate particularly focusing on holiday light displays.

To give your child permission to participate, please fill out the form below and sign at the bottom. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to the instructor, Angela Maloney, at 240-233-6253 or by email to angie@theplacechangesme.com.

I _____ am the parent/guardian of _____. I give my permission for my child to participate in the photowalk scheduled for December __, 2023 as part of the Starting Out In Photography class.

Signature

Printed name

Emergency Phone Number

