



Wilderness Landscape Digital Photography

Course Syllabus ART 296-01

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Course Syllabus

TEACHER: David Marson
OFFICE: KSTG-LP 101.5 FM Radio Station Building
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment (call to make an appointment)
OFFICE PHONE: 916-549-5812 (leave a message I will call you back; please speak loudly and clearly)
E-MAIL ADDRESS: mac_doc@mac.com
dave.marson@cdcr.ca.gov
WEB SITE: <http://puc.edu>
<http://WildernessWalker.org>
<http://mac-doc.org>
COURSE PAGE: <https://d2l.puc.edu>
<http://WildernessWalker.org/wilderPhoto>
ONLINE SECTION: ART-296-01
FIELD SECTION: ART-296L-01
COURSE CREDITS: 3 Units of college credit form Pacific Union College
CLASS DATES: 07/02/2007-07/13/2007 Online Lecture
07/15/2007-07/22/2007 Field Laboratory

Overview: Wilderness Landscape Photography is a hands-on field photography course. Students will learn digital camera methods and techniques for photographing wilderness subjects. The course concentrates on digital camera work and image composition. Very little time is spent on computer editing. Students will also learn wilderness trip planning and safety by actual practice. Students need to be in good physical condition. They must be willing and able to hike six miles per day across backcountry wilderness terrain. Students will carry all their equipment and provisions in a backpack and camp overnight sleeping under the stars at various high Sierra mountain locations.

Intended Audience: The course is best suited to college students in good physical condition that have an interest in backpacking and fine art digital photography. This is a level two course and assumes the student has some experience in basic photography.

Textbook: John Shaw 1944-, *Landscape Photography* Published by AMPHOTO, an imprint of Watson-Guption Publications, Inc., a division of BPI Communications, Inc., 1515 Broadway, New York, NY 10036, 1994. ISBN: 0-8174-3710-X

Equipment Requirements: Digital SLR Camera (minimum 3 mega pixels) that has manual light metering, manual adjustments for focus, aperture, and shutter speed. Comfortable backpacking system for overnight trips six miles into wilderness destinations. You will need a pair of comfortable, medium weight, waterproof backpacking shoes that have been broken in.

Objectives: Participants in this course will:

- Exhibit technical proficiency in control of the tools of digital landscape photography: camera, lenses, light, exposure, and the digital medium
- Demonstrate the basics of photographic design and composition that characterize great portraits of the wilderness landscape

Assignments: As described above, the primary goals of this course are exploration and practical application. Therefore, various assignments have been designed to provide course participants the opportunity to do both. The assignments fall into two categories:

- Readings, questions, and activities assigned to each class session will help the student reflect on the issues and articulate their ideas. Responses are meant to help prepare for class, but not all of them will be collected and commented on.
- Completion of hands-on assignments and projects:
 - demonstrate safe wilderness life skills and use of tools
 - demonstrate effective photographic methods and composition
 - complete a written journal and digital portfolio of photograph you created during this course
 - participate in daily critics by both presentation of daily images and by constructive evaluation of all images presented

Because these assignments fulfill important course objectives, they will be collected and counted toward your grade. Feedback will be provided on those that are handed in on time.

Course Topics: The course will cover the following topics:

- Unit 1, OL1 – Welcome to the Wilderness**
- Unit 2, OL1 – Choosing Equipment**
- Unit 3, OL2 – Planning and Preparation for the Trip**
- Unit 4, OL2 – Surviving the Wilderness**
- Unit 5, FC1 – Defining Exposure**
- Unit 6, FC2&3 – The Range of Light**
- Unit 7, FC4 – Aperture**
- Unit 8, FC4 – Shutter Speed**
- Unit 9, FC5 – Lenses and Accessories**
- Unit 10, FC6 – Special Techniques and Filters**
- Unit 11, FC7 – The Landscape as Design**
- Unit 12, FC8 – Problems and Solutions**
- Unit 13, FC9 – On Location**

Grading Plan:

Coursework will be weighted as follows:

1. Journal and Portfolio	55%			
2. Assignments and Projects		20%		
3. Quizzes		15%		
4. Final exam		<u>10%</u>		
	<u>55%</u>	+	<u>45%</u>	= 100%

Journal and Portfolio:

Journal and portfolio entries (notes and photographs) are required any time the student works on a project or hands-on assignments. Each journal and portfolio entry will be graded unless there are major errors or omissions and it is returned for correction or completion. Journal entries with minor detail or other non-conceptual errors will be graded as submitted, and letter grades will be given.

Journal due dates will be given for each assignment. Journals will *usually* be due at the *beginning* of class periods on the due dates (unless specifically stated otherwise). Unless absent on the day an assignment is due, it will not be accepted later than at the beginning of the class period when it is due. Read more about absences policy in the attendance section below.

Assignments and Projects:

Photographic assignments and/or projects will be assigned every class meeting. Each assignment will be graded unless there are major errors or omissions and it is returned for correction or completion. Assignments with minor detail or other non-conceptual errors will be graded as submitted, and letter grades will be given.

Work due dates will be given for each assignment. Work will *usually* be due at the *beginning* of the class period on the due dates (unless specifically stated otherwise). Unless absent on the day an assignment is due, it will not be accepted later than at the beginning of the class period when it is due. Read more about absences policy in the attendance section below.

Quizzes:

There will be daily quizzes for each class. Quizzes will relate to current *and previous* topics. A quiz may be given at *any* time during any class period -- immediately after a lecture/discussion, at the beginning or end of a class, etc. There will be no make-up quizzes -- none even later during the same class period. Quizzes will be given only to those students who are present when the quizzes are passed out.

Final Exam:

The final exam will be comprehensive. It will be given at the time shown at the end of the schedule that follows.

Attendance:

Attendance to all class meetings is required. The student is to notify the instructor of any absence ahead of time. If absent from class when the journal, project, and/or assignment is due, it will be accepted late -- but only if submitted *immediately* upon return and only if an acceptable, written "excuse," is presented. If the student cannot attend class when the work is due and cannot provide an acceptable written excuse, the student is to send the work to class with a friend, family member, or other person. An "acceptable" excuse for an absence is the final decision of the instructor. Due dates will not be changed because of earlier absences.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT

The wilderness is the classroom. Therefore environmental considerations are of the utmost importance. Remember to take only pictures and leave only footprints. Respect the wilderness experience of others.

Course Materials:

- John Shaw 1944-, *Landscape Photography* Published by AMPHOTO, an imprint of Watson-Guption Publications, Inc., a division of BPI Communications, Inc., 1515 Broadway, New York, NY 10036, 1994. ISBN: 0-8174-3710-X
- On-line session outlines, assignments, and supplementary readings. (*Available for course participants*)
- Tools and Materials:
 - Digital Camera, Memories, and Accessories
 - Lens (A range of focal lengths between 24mm to 300mm)
 - Tripod and Head with Quick-Release
 - Backpacking System (Refer to Wilderness Walker™ Backpackers' Checklist)
 - Clothing (Refer to Wilderness Walker™ Backpackers' Checklist)
 - Backpacking Shoes (Refer to <http://www.rei.com/rei/learn/>)
 - Food (Refer to Wilderness Walker™ Menu Planner)
 - Journal Book

Supplemental Materials:

- Bryan F. Peterson, *Understanding Exposure: How to Shoot Great Photographs with a film or Digital Camera (Updated Edition)* Published by AMPHOTO, an imprint of Watson-Guption Publications, Inc., a division of BPI Communications, Inc., 1515 Broadway, New York, NY 10036, 2004. ISBN: 0-8174-6300-3
- John P. Schaefer 1934-, *The Ansel Adams Guide Book 1: Basic Techniques of Photography – Revised Edition* Published by Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1999. ISBN: 0-8212-2575-8
- Peter K. Burian and Robert Caputo, *National Geographic Photography Field Guide: Secrets to Making Great Pictures* Published by National Geographic Society, 1999. ISBN: 0-7922-5676-X
- Ansel Adams 1902-1984, *Camera and Lens, The Creative Approach, Basic Photo One* Published by Morgan & Morgan, Inc., 1971. ISBN: 0-87100-056-3

Schedule: Class will be held on the following days all day:

CLASS DATES: 07/02/2007-07/13/2007 Lecture
07/15/2007-07/22/2007 Laboratory

Week one on-line class 1:

D2L, Podcast-video and e-mail
Unit 1
Unit 2

Week two on-line class 2:

D2L, Interactive web-conference and e-mail
Unit 3
Unit 4

Week three field class:

Sunday

1:00 PM Class 1 meeting Ansel Adams Gallery, Yosemite Valley
Unit 5
3:00 PM Field camera work Yosemite Valley
9:00 PM Class 2 meeting campground Yosemite Valley
Unit 6, Part A
Critique

Monday

5:30 AM Field camera work Yosemite Valley
10:00 AM Class 3 meeting campground Yosemite Valley
Unit 6, Part B
3:00 PM Field camera work Yosemite Valley
9:00 PM Class 4 meeting campground Yosemite Valley
Unit 7
Unit 8
Critique

Tuesday

5:30 AM Field camera work Yosemite Valley
10:00 AM Break camp Yosemite Valley and travel to Tuolumne Meadows
3:00 PM Field camera work Tuolumne Meadows
9:00 PM Class 5 meeting campground Tuolumne Meadows
Unit 9
Critique

Wednesday

5:30 AM Field camera work Tuolumne Meadows
10:00 AM Break camp Tuolumne Meadows and travel to Mammoth
Lakes/Agnew Meadow campground
3:00 PM Field camera work Mono Lake, Mammoth Lakes, Devil's Post Pile, or
Agnew Meadow
9:00 PM Class 6 meeting campground Agnew Meadow
Unit 10
Critique

Thursday

5:30 AM Field camera work Agnew Meadow
10:00 AM Backpack from Agnew Meadow to Ediza Lake
3:00 PM Field camera work Ediza Lake area
9:00 PM Class 7 meeting campsite Ediza Lake
Unit 11
Critique

Friday

5:30 AM Field camera work Ediza Lake
10:00 AM Class 8 meeting campsite Ediza Lake
Unit 12
Critique
3:00 PM Field camera work Ediza Lake area
9:00 PM campsite Ediza Lake

Saturday

Personal time at Ediza Lake area
9:00 PM Class 9 meeting campsite Ediza Lake
Unit 13
Critique

Sunday

5:30 AM Field camera work Ediza Lake
10:00 AM Backpack from Ediza Lake to Agnew Meadow
3:00 PM Final class (10) meeting campground Agnew Meadow
Final Test
Portfolio Presentations