

Night and Low Light Photography

CRN: 20211

203-420-004

David Denemark, Photography Instructor

To submit class projects and comments

USE THIS EMAIL: ddenemark@wi.rr.com

GO TO MY WEB

For PDF files of class work

[http://www.daviddenemarkphotography.com/WCTC PHOTO CLASSES.html](http://www.daviddenemarkphotography.com/WCTC_PHOTO_CLASSES.html)

Phone: 262-370-6200

Class Assignment Schedule

Feb 6 - March 12, 2012

Each Monday, for six weeks, 9:00-11:55AM, Room G-149

Suggested Equipment:

You will need a digital or film camera with a wide to telephoto zoom lens and a **sturdy tripod**. An auxiliary flash is very helpful to have but not essential for good results. The ability to shoot in RAW image mode is an advantage.

A wide-angle 35mm (equivalent) lens that zooms to 200 mm or better is preferred but not essential for best results.

Computer at home to download and organize photos for class

Mini USB zip/thumb drive to bring your images to class for discussion. NO CD's.

Other supplies to be determined

Course Description:

This short course will focus on theory and techniques used to create dramatic and interesting photos in at night or in low light level situations. Subjects covered include: special equipment needed for night photography, how to capture images as the light levels change from early evening into the night darkness, how to photograph moving objects in low light, painting your subject with light using a small strobe and more. Most importantly, students will learn how to succeed in taking better photos of subjects in difficult lighting and weather conditions with their own equipment. Emphasis will be placed on quality photos of buildings, street and cityscapes and entertainment venues after dark.

Course Competencies:

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Analyze and determine which is the best angle or position to photograph a subject in relation to surrounding light levels as the sun fades into darkness.
2. How to scout locations, take light readings and then prepare the right camera equipment and accessories to prevent problems in the field.
3. Understand and know how to take time exposures.
4. How to overcome the limitations of auto focus and “digital lag” when objects are moving in the frame.
5. Recognize what obstacles to avoid and how to stay in a safe shooting area on busy city sidewalks, streets and other locations while shooting with a tripod.
6. Make adjustments to their camera to create better indoor photos at parties and other events with mixed existing light.
7. Know when and how to use a strobe for fill in flash.
8. Take photos outdoors at night by light paint buildings and other subjects, using pocket strobes.
9. Use advanced camera features such as custom white balance and exposure bracketing.
10. Count on tips and tricks discussed to get those great nighttime postcard style photos of cityscapes, building, streets and other venues.

Attendance policy

Absences: Your attendance is essential for successful course completion, and you are expected to attend every class, be punctual, and do not plan on leaving class before the session has ended. If you *must* miss a class, please notify the instructor by e-mail or phone prior to the scheduled meeting time. Absences that endanger your ability to successfully complete this course, or absences that negatively impact others will result in you being dropped. After eight hours of absences the instructor may recommend that you drop the course. Excused absences will be only allowed for participation in authorized field trips, conferences, and intercollegiate games sanctioned by WCTC in other classes. It is your responsibility to discuss the absence with your instructor prior to the activity.

Makeup work: Due dates for projects remain the same, whether you are absent, or not. It is your responsibility to obtain materials or make up work from the session you missed. Lectures and demonstrations will not be repeated.

Code of Conduct

“WCTC, as a community dedicated to learning, personal growth and the advancement of knowledge, expects and requires the behavior of all of its students to be compatible with its high standards of scholarship and conduct. All individuals and/or groups of the WCTC community are expected to speak and act with respect for the human dignity of others, both within the classroom and outside it, in social and recreational as well as academic activities. The WCTC Code of Conduct and Academic Ethics Code further outline the rights and responsibilities of students. For more information, those documents can be found at: www.wctc.edu/conduct”.

2012 Fall Semester Class Assignment Schedule

Session	Discussion/Topic	Assignment/Project/Activity
1.	Class Overview	<p>Introduction and Orientation to the course competencies and discuss proposed student action photo field trip/exercise opportunity. Images due by final session (SEE SESSION 6)</p> <p>Lab Activities: Introduction to basic camera equipment used by professionals. Discuss and compare equipment owned by student participants.</p> <p>Show samples of good and bad photography at night and indoors.</p> <p>Project Assignment: Bring to class two or three samples of photos you have taken at night or in low light levels with your current camera (digital or printed form). We will discuss what works or how to improve what doesn't. Bring to class, personal camera equipment to evaluate for capabilities <u>READ CAMERA MANUAL Both Due by session 2</u></p>
2.	<p>How to plan your photo challenge. Working with the equipment you own. What makes a tripod good and how to use it right. Know about the subject before choosing your angle and location.</p> <p>Depth of field, Focus, Composition and Cropping. Discuss field trip details.</p>	<p>Review and discuss photo samples brought in by students.</p> <p>Lab Activities: Examine each student's camera equipment and discuss what is possible to capture with it. Have students experiment with camera options, practice methods for panning and stop action photography. Review examples.</p> <p>Project Assignment: Spend time photographing moving objects in different lighting conditions outside. Do this at sunrise or before and again as the sun is setting and after dark in your neighborhood. Shoot wide angle and telephoto views. Try to improve your approach to the subject angle and overcome the limitations of your equipment. Try many angles and a few blur motion pictures. Use your tripod for most shots and some without it. Save images for discussion. <u>Due session 4.</u></p>

3.	<p>Field Trip or Location Shoot This session will begin one hour before sunset and will end about an hour or so after it gets dark. NOTE: WE START LATER AND NOT AT NORMAL CLASS TIME. About 4-7 PM</p>	<p><u>Meet at designated location and receive assignment for the session, bring whatever strobes you have available. We will use them to light paint an object.</u> Project Assignment: Bring images to class for discussion. Do a collage if you like. <u>Due by Session 4</u> Review locations possible to use for second field exercise students will complete. Note: This may be reviewed at an earlier time and can be scheduled at student's convenience.</p>
4.	<p>Vertical/Horizontal, Individuals or Groups, Rule of Thirds and Framing, Developing the shot list for field trip. How to light paint with pocket strobes or flashlight.</p>	<p>Review and discuss photo samples/notes brought in by students Lab Activities: Discuss session topics and watch a digital presentation. Practice in class techniques to light paint. Detail approach to shooting selected night location as a student exercise. Discuss class project for photo collage of field trip edited images. Project Assignment for session 5: Prep equipment for field trip</p>
5.	<p>Field Trip or Location Shoot This session will begin one hour before sunset and will end about an hour or so after it gets dark. About 4-7 PM</p>	<p><u>Meet at designated location and receive assignment for the session</u> Project Assignment for session 6: Select your own images taken at several different locations or an event you attended or your images from the class field trips. Make copies of the best 5-9 images and crop, cut, arrange and paste them to a piece of poster board (or make a digital print) to make an interesting photo collage. Try to show your intended audience a photo layout that will effectively communicate your style and ideas.</p>
6. Final	<p>Short course wrap up, critique of collages and discussion. Review and discuss images taken at action event.</p>	<p>Review results of poster project, night photos exercises. Lab Activities: Spend time looking at photos from student's field experiences. Opportunity for final questions regarding specific photo challenges.</p>
NOTE	<p>Suggested reading but not required: Available on line and possibly at your local bookstore.</p>	<p><i>Night and Low-Light Photography: Professional Techniques from Experts for Artistic and Commercial Success</i> (Paperback) By Jill Waterman, 2008, Amphoto Books, New York</p>

		<i>The Complete Guide to Night & Lowlight Digital Photography</i> By Michael Freeman, 2008, Lark Books, New York, \$29
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Student Photography Exercise: Due by session 6

Students will participate in the field trip experience or may elect photograph a location of their choosing at any time during the class schedule. The idea is to accomplish the assignment requirements. Each student should prepare the basic photo shot list and capture as many images on the list, as possible. The main the objective is to get at least few great night views on film or chip. Student images will be discussed in session 6, bring prints or digital files to final session in collage format.