

# WCTC Landscape/Nature Photography

(For Advanced and Amateur Photographers)

203-405 001

CRN: 5226

## David Denemark

Photography Instructor

To submit class projects when you miss a class or for questions

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Please copy to [ddenemark@wi.rr.com](mailto:ddenemark@wi.rr.com) also

2-scheduled FIELD TRIP INFORMATION will be POSTED ON MY WEB

For PDF files of class work see WCTC Blackboard or use link below

[http://www.daviddenemarkphotography.com/WCTC\\_PHOTO\\_CLASSES.html](http://www.daviddenemarkphotography.com/WCTC_PHOTO_CLASSES.html)

Phone: 262-370-6200

Class Assignment Schedule

June 15 to July 13, 2015

Monday for six weeks at 1-3:20 PM - WCTC Room G-149

### Suggested Equipment:

You will need a quality digital or film camera with a wide to telephoto zoom lens and tripod.

A wide-angle 35mm (equivalent) lens that zooms from 28 to 200 mm or better is preferred but not essential for best results.

A Computer plus software to download and organize fix or crop photos for class.

Mini USB zip drive to bring your images to class for discussion. No CD's.

A good quality LED flashlight or strobe/ring light unit.

### Suggested reading but not required:

*Digital Photography Expert: Nature and Landscape Photography, By Michael Freeman, Lark Books, Sterling Publishing Co, New York, 2004*

### Course Description:

This short course will focus on theory and techniques used to create dramatic, interesting photos of beautiful scenic vistas and landscapes and animals in a natural surrounding. Subjects covered include: using available light, understanding exposure, equipment required, special effects with filters, some night photography, picking the best angle or view and more. Most importantly, students will learn how to succeed in taking better photos of scenery, buildings and landscapes under different lighting and weather conditions with their own equipment.

## 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 large outdoor scene or monument
2. Choose and prepare the right camera equipment and accessories to prevent problems in the field. Use of filters and effects.
3. Anticipate and adjust exposure for lighting and weather changes, to create more drama while photographing large vistas or scenery.
4. Recognize a great photo and how to capture it before the light is gone. Knowing and calculating the daily time of the “Golden Hours”.
5. Smoothly change exposure and focus while photographing the motion of nature.
6. Recognize what obstacles to avoid and how to stay in a safe shooting area while on location.
7. Edit and selectively crop their scenic photos for impact and create a panoramic print.
8. Make adjustments to their camera to create better nighttime photos with existing light. How to use a tripod or monopod correctly.
9. Know when and how to use a strobe for fill in flash, outdoors, plus tips and tricks that the pros use to get those amazing colorful photos in publications like *National Geographic*.

## 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 three class 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. An email must be sent to the instructor indicating a reason for your absence.

**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.

**FIELD TRIP INFORMATION** All field trips will be held rain or shine. **In the event of pending dangerous weather, check my website the evening before the outdoor trip for final instructions. Students may choose to do their own version of the scheduled field trip if they are unable to attend. Please email me if you will not be joining the rest of the class. Students**

must provide their own transportation and pay any fees associated with the field trips. Discount fee research and car-pooling are suggested to save money. Participation in these field trips is entirely up to the individual student, and not required to get a passing grade. Note: All students who participate in the field will be required to sign a WCTC release form.

### 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](http://www.wctc.edu/conduct).*

### Special Needs

If you are a student with special needs or would like additional help to improve your learning experience, please let the instructor know. Options are available to you.

## Semester Class Assignment Schedule

| Session   | Discussion/Topic | Assignment/Project/Activity   |
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| Session 1 | Class Overview   | <p>Introduction and Orientation to the course competencies</p> <p><b>Lab Activities:</b> Introduction to basic camera equipment used by professional outdoor photographers. Discuss and compare equipment owned by student participants. Show great landscape or nature photo examples. Take a basic look at what makes a great photo. Discuss Ansel Adams, Zone System. Learn how to use the camera’s instructions manual.</p> <p><b>Project Assignment:</b> Bring to class two or three samples of your favorite landscape, scenery photos, in digital or printed form. We will discuss what makes the photos dramatic and special.</p> |

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|           |   | Bring to class, personal camera equipment to evaluate for capabilities. Read your camera instruction manual<br><u>Both Due by session 2</u>  |
| Session 2 | <p>How to plan your photo challenge. Working with the equipment you own. Scouting the scene before choosing your angle and location.</p> <p>A look at Camera Gadgets and other neat photo stuff. Depth of field, Focus, Composition and Cropping. Correct method to use a Tripod or Mono Pod will be addressed.</p> | <p>Review and discuss photo samples brought in by students.</p> <p><b>Lab Activities:</b> 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 to produce panoramas and wide plus photos. Review examples.</p> <p><b>Project Assignment:</b> Spend time photographing simple objects or scenes in a park or other area under different lighting conditions outside, anywhere. Shoot only wide angle and close or telephoto far away. Try to improve your approach to the subject angle and overcome the limitations of your equipment. Shoot a lot and try many angles. Change exposures to see what happens to the look of your scene. Prepare equipment for field trip. Bring in images for discussion. <u>Due session 4.</u></p> |
| Session 3 | <p><b>FIELD TRIP</b> or Location Shoot<br/>BE AT DESIGNATED LOCATION<br/>ON TIME AND READY TO<br/>START TAKING PICTURES.</p>  | <p><b>Field Trip Activities: Meet at designated location.</b> Examine how to improve results with better composition and selective focus. Explore shooting techniques and practice them. Address specific photo problems/challenges in the field trip environment.</p> <p><b>After Field Trip Project Assignment:</b> Take photos of the same object or scene outdoors, during different times of the day. Start at sun up and come back often as the light changes during the day. Use the same vantage point and focus for all images so we can see the variations in each photo. We will discuss your observations. Take other photos in your area and improve on</p>   |

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|           |  | your composition from the previous session. Bring images to class for discussion. <u>Due Session 4</u>  |
| Session 4 | Vertical/Horizontal, Rule of 3rds and Framing, The “golden” hours of light. Preparing camera equipment for outdoor location shoot.   | Review and discuss photo samples/notes.<br><b>Lab Activities:</b> Practice in class techniques presented. Detail approach to shooting the landscape as another field trip exercise. Discuss alternate ideas in case of bad weather. Discuss final class project for photo collage.<br><br><b>Project Assignment:</b> Pre-scout agreed location if possible. Check out all of your equipment and make sure everything works well. Charge your battery and the spare. Reformat your memory chips and pack your camera bag or vest. Don't bring too much equipment. Keep it light so you don't get tired too soon. |
| Session 5 | <b>FIELD TRIP 2 or Location Shoot<br/>BE AT DESIGNATED<br/>LOCATION ON TIME AND<br/>READY TO START TAKING<br/>PICTURES.</b>  | <b>Project Assignment:</b> Select your own images from the field trip or other location. Make copies of the images and crop, cut, and paste them to a poster board (or make a digital print) to make a photo collage. Tell a story about the field trip in photos and a few words <u>Bring your collage for discussion, session 6.</u>  |
| Session 6 | Short course wrap up, critique of photo poster collages and discussion. Review and discuss images taken on location of outdoor landscape images with student's own cameras | Review results of poster project, field trip landscape photos.<br><br><b>Lab Activities:</b> Spend time looking at photos from student's field experiences. Opportunity for final questions regarding specific photo challenges   |

### **Student Photography Exercise: Due by session 6**

Students will participate in the field trip experience or can elect to 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 five great images. Student images will be discussed in session 6, bring prints or digital files to final session in collage format.