



WAUKESHA
COUNTY TECHNICAL
COLLEGE

Portrait Photography

203 600F 001 CRN: 21102

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: David Denemark	Office phone: 262-370-6200 home
Email: ddenemark@wctc.edu	Office hours & location: 8-10AM-home
Class Meets: 3-29-2017 to 5-3-2017 Wednesday, 6 weeks, 1pm-3:50pm 18 hours total.	Class Location: Room G-149
Program Advisors:	
Beth Felch: Graphics and Engineering	bfelch@wctc.edu
Dena Constantineau: Manufacturing	dconstantineau1@wctc.edu
Gloria Saunders: Construction and Transportation	gsaunders@wctc.edu

Course Description:

This short course will focus on theory and techniques used to take great portraits of family and friends at home in the studio or on location. Subjects covered include: using available light, understanding exposure, camera and lighting equipment required, how to pose individuals and small groups, picking the best angle or view and more. This course will include in-class photography time, as well as **two (2) FIELD TRIPS, during normal class time.**

GO TO MY WEB

For PDF files of class work and tips

http://www.daviddenenmarkphotography.com/WCTC_PHOTO_CLASSES.html

Suggested Equipment needed to get good results for class projects:

1. **Any digital or film camera, with a wide to telephoto zoom lens and a sturdy tripod.**
2. A lens that zooms to 250 mm is preferred. Best results are obtained when you use a long lens (200mm-450mm) with an aperture of f= 2.8 for shallow depth of field and image stabilization. Ask me about this lens if you have any questions.
3. A computer at home to download and organize, edit and crop photos for class
4. Mini USB zip/thumb drive to bring your images to class for discussion. NO CD's

5. LED Pocket Flashlight or a high intensity, 1,000,000 candlepower light or strobe for main and fill light uses,
6. A strobe lighting set-up or a set of "hot" lights combined with reflector cards and photo umbrellas will provide quality lighting for your portraits.
7. Paper or cloth material to use as a background for portraits
8. Standard makeup kit to diminish forehead and nose shine, fix hair etc.

Other supplies to be determined

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 background and depth of focus.
2. How to prepare the right camera equipment and accessories to prevent problems in the field, or when on location.
3. Understand and know how to set up a portable studio and what equipment to use on location when there is no source of electricity
4. Overcome the limitations of auto focus and "digital lag" when shooting fashion portraits
5. Know how to direct and pose your subjects while helping them to relax and smile for the camera
6. Make adjustments to the camera to make a balanced exposure with mixed lighting.
7. Know when and how to use a strobe for fill in flash and how to aim a pocket strobe properly for side lighting on your subjects
8. Use advanced camera features such as custom white balance and exposure bracketing, depth of field etc.
9. Use tips and tricks discussed to get those great portrait photos of any person or subject-including your pets.

Critical Life Skills:

- **Citizenship:** Demonstrate local and global awareness, social responsibility, and effective engagement with diverse populations
- **Communication:** Communicate effectively in personal, academic, and professional interactions using appropriate modalities.
- **Critical Thinking:** Evaluate pertinent information to reach an informed conclusion.
- **Problem Solving:** Solve personal, academic and professional problems using disciplinary concepts and frameworks.
- **Relationship:** Cultivate civil relationships to be effective in personal, academic and professional life.
- **Self-Management:** Apply methods of continuous personal, academic and professional improvement.

Course Requirements:

It is extremely important to attend every class; it will weigh heavily toward your final grade.

Students are expected to be on time to every class and to come prepared with all needed materials and homework completed. Each student is expected to keep a 3-ring binder in order to keep all handouts, quizzes, exams and homework organized. Students should make arrangements to get any missed assignments.

Students must complete the assigned reading and homework prior to arrival at class. Lectures will serve only to clarify, selectively highlight, and supplement the assignments. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions.

Each student will be required to successfully complete all assignments. Students will be required to have and use appropriate personal protective equipment as required.

Grading Criteria: CEU credits uses Pass/Fail

Policies

WCTC Student Code of Conduct Statement:

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.

WCTC Title IX Statement:

WCTC prohibits all forms of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and coercion – including sexual harassment, assault, and other forms of sexual misconduct. If you have been the victim of, witnessed, or been made aware of an incident of discrimination/harassment (including sexual misconduct), campus support resources exist – and reporting is strongly encouraged. Students should be aware that WCTC staff, faculty, and administrators have a duty to report such incidents. For the safety of our campus community, we encourage students to do the same; if you see something – say something. The College's Title IX Coordinator, the Vice President of Student Services, can be reached at 262-691-5240. For more information, including links to community and confidential resources, visit www.wctc.edu/sexual-misconduct.

Attendance and Tardiness:

WCTC tardiness and attendance policies will be in effect. Students who leave class without authorization prior to dismissal are considered absent for the entire class. If you know that you are going to be absent from class, **call your instructor** as far in advance as possible. This will inform the instructor so appropriate arrangements can be made to provide any class materials and/or handouts that were given out. If the student calls in, and only has one absence for the semester, no grade deduction will be given.

A student will have failed the course after the equivalent of three-week absences (for example: a 2 credit course meeting once a week three absences will result in failure, for a 2 credit course

meeting twice a week, 6 absences). Department policy is that students maintain 80% class attendance, and a student missing three classes in the first two weeks will be withdrawn from the class. Exception to this policy may be granted for one documented excused absence. A medical excuse and prior instructor approval may qualify for this exception. Students will be required to make up any work missed and will perform additional assignments as deemed necessary by the instructor.

It is the student's responsibility to find out from class members any work, lecture or notes missed.

Breaks will be determined by the instructor. All students will break at the same time. During breaks, students may not leave the classroom or lab without instructor permission.

Academic Honesty:

Students assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of all coursework they submit. This means that any work you hand in as your own represents work you developed. Violations of the academic code of conduct include, but are not limited to: cheating, plagiarism and collusion.

Personal Protective Equipment:

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is required and must be worn in any classroom, laboratory or shop where hazardous work is being performed. Examples of PPE include eye and face protection, head protection, hand protection, foot protection, hearing protection and respiratory protection. Your instructor will specify what PPE is required.

Computer/Lab:

WCTC's computer labs are to be used only for WCTC course-related work (including internet). Remote Desktop will be used during lab times to monitor student computer activity. Students who are reading e-mail, surfing, or working on projects for other classes may be asked to leave the lab. No food or beverages are allowed in any of the lab complexes.

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices:

Use of electronic devices will not be allowed unless there is an emergency situation. In that case, notify your instructor at the start of class.

Student Accommodations:

For academic accommodations, the student must approach the instructor to ask for the accommodation (after verification has been provided). If the student requests an accommodation card, a written classroom accommodation request will be provided for the student. The accommodation card will list the accommodation. Contact Special Service Coordinator at (262) 691-5210 or the Counselor for Students with Disabilities at (262) 691-5277 if you have any questions or need an accommodation card.

NOTE: For detailed information on all of WCTC's student policies, consult the student handbook, which can be found online at: <http://www.wctc.edu/books/student-policies/>

Acceptance of Responsibility for products and materials: (if applicable); separate document at end

Important WCTC Phone Numbers:

School closing:	262-691-5239
Campus Security:	262-691-5582
Pewaukee Police Department	262-691-5678

Class Assignment Schedule

Class Assignment Schedule

Week 1

Class Overview:

Introduction and Orientation to the course competencies. Short Q&A

Lab Activities: Introduction to basic camera equipment used by professionals. Show samples of the best and the worst portraits. Show a portrait studio set-up.

Week 2 Project Assignment: Bring to class two or three samples of home portrait photos that you take with your current camera. We will discuss what works or how to improve what doesn't. Bring to class, personal camera equipment and tripod to evaluate for capabilities both Due by session 2

WEEK 2 – G-149

Working with the equipment you own. What minimum equipment needed for lighting your subject. Review and discuss photo samples brought in by students. Discuss the field trip plans for week 3. Final rundown on what to expect in the field and how to get results on location.

Lab Activities –Week 2: Examine each student's camera equipment and discuss what is possible to capture with it. Have students experiment with camera options, practice methods for portrait posing and composition in class. How to *create side lighting* with pocket strobes and reflectors on the portrait photoset with a background. **BRING TO CLASS WHAT EQUIPMENT YOU HAVE OR CAN OBTAIN.**

Project Assignment: Spend time photographing people in different lighting conditions outdoors. Do this when the light is at its brightest. Use white reflector cards to add fill light. Shoot wide-angle close-up and telephoto views. Improve your approach to the subject angle and overcome the limitations of your equipment. Try some wide-angle and close-up telephoto photos of the subject. Save only five of your images for future discussion in session 4.

WEEK 3 – Field Trip-The Domes

This session will be held at the regular time at [Address](#): south 27th Street and I94 , Milwaukee

CLASS VOTES ON LOCATION FOR FIELD TRIPS. You must get there on your own or by carpooling and pay any fees for admission and parking if applicable. Meet at designated location and receive instructions for the session.

Project Assignment for session 4: Make copies of the SIX – NINE best images shot on location and crop, cut, arrange and paste them to a piece of poster board or in a photo editing program or make a digital print or PDF file for review. Make an interesting photo collage. Try to show your intended audience a photo layout that will effectively communicate your style and ideas and the field trip experience. You can create more than one collage if you like. Bring your creation to Session 4, we will critique and discuss.

WEEK 4 – G149

Critique of collages and discuss and review results of field trip and photo project. Vertical/Horizontal, Individuals or Groups, Rule of Thirds and Framing, Developing the shot list for field trip. Review and discuss photo samples/notes brought in by students.

Lab Activities: Discuss session topics and watch a digital presentation. More practice will be done in class on the best techniques to light paint small objects (if needed). Detail the approach to shooting better portraits at home, as a student exercise. Discuss class project for photo collage of field trip #2 edited images.

Project Assignment for session 5: Prep equipment and pre scout location if possible, for field trip. Practice photo techniques for field trip shoot. Take more photos than you think you will need and you may come up with that one really great image in your photo library. To best hone your composition skills, take lots of exposures from several angles. Give yourself a lot of choices for final editing. Colors and cropping can be fixed in post production but as always- it's better to do it right with the first, second or third exposure adjustment. **BRACKET SHUTTER SPEED ONLY**

WEEK 5 – Field Trip- Grohmann Museum

This session will be held at the regular time at: [Milwaukee School of Engineering](#)
Address: 1000 N Broadway, Milwaukee, WI 53202

. You must get there on your own or by carpooling and pay any fees for admission and parking. Meet at designated location and receive assignment for the session.

Project Assignment for session 6: Make copies of the SIX – NINE best images shot on location and crop, cut, arrange and paste them to a piece of poster board or in a photo editing program or make a digital print or PDF file for review. Make an interesting photo collage. You can see samples on my website. Try to show your intended audience a photo layout that will effectively communicate your style and ideas and the field trip experience. You can create more than one collage if you like. Bring your creation to Session 6, we will critique and discuss.

WEEK 6 - G149

Critique of collages and discuss and review results of photo field trip project.

Lab Activities: Opportunity for final questions regarding specific photo challenges, student photography projects, your final project. Your work and class participation will be evaluation for your CEU credits at the end of the class. Please make the effort to do a good job and you will have a great experience during this class.

NOTE: This schedule is **preliminary** to give you an idea of what the course objectives and requirements are. The instructor reserves the right to adjust this schedule as the semester progresses; changes will be talked about in class and posted on Blackboard.