

**RRCC**

**PHO 178-601 #(31045)**

**Outdoor Portrait Photography Workshop**

1 Credit Hour, 2 Saturdays, April 25- May 2, 2015

Harry Olsson, instructor

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**Course Description:**

Provides students with an experiential, learn-from experience workshop, where they learn techniques for photographing a person or persons outdoors, under varied conditions of lighting and the environment. Students must have a working camera to use. There are no prerequisites.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. After discussion, decide how the person(s) will be photographed, including lighting, background, pose, and location. The portrait will tell the viewer something about the subject(s).
2. Adjust camera and lens settings to make the portraits look as desired, including aperture, shutter speed, ISO, white balance, exposure mode, etc.
3. Photograph the person(s) so as to show a pleasing rendering of how he / she / they look. Use lighting, composition, and posing to create photographs that show the subject(s) as candid, posed, and with a desired expression(s) that tells something about their personality.
4. Photograph the person(s) in a way that shows what they do, their occupation, passion, or hobby. Also photograph the subject(s) in an environment or location that is important for the subject(s).
5. Use lighting controls, modifiers, light discs / reflectors, fill flash, etc., when needed, to direct light into dark areas that need more light, and / or take away undesired light that might detract from the portrait.
6. Explore a variety of techniques that show the subject(s) in different ways, such as close up, farther away, looking at or away from camera, standing, sitting, laying down, in action, etc., in order to tell about the subject in the portrait(s).
7. Use compositional rules and guidelines to improve portrait photos from an artistic standpoint.
8. Participate in class discussions regarding topics for the workshop.
9. Participate in group workshop sessions, where we photograph the portrait subjects. Bring camera equipment and accessories to the workshop sessions and use it in the field to make photographs.
10. Present assignment photographs taken during the workshop class during a sharing and critique session, where students share the work they have done with the class. Participate and share work. Turn in documentation for assignment photographs.

## Topical Outline:

- I. Preparation for Photographing Portrait Subjects
  - a. Make a plan for the portrait session
  - b. Prepare for locations, props, settings
  - c. Charged batteries, back-ups
  - d. Have enough memory capacity
  
- II. Decisions to be made for Photographing
  - a. Choose the ISO for best results
  - b. Choose camera exposure mode
  - c. Decide which apertures (f stops), and shutter speeds you'll use
  - d. Decide file format and quality (file size) for best results
  - e. Choose camera settings for desired color balance, contrast, etc.
  - f. Decide which accessories you'll bring; tripod, filters, etc
  
- III. Make Portrait Photographs
  - a. Candid
  - b. Posed / Semi-Posed
  - c. Backgrounds close to subject
  - d. Backgrounds far away
  - e. Close-up, head shot
  - f. 2/3 to 3/4 length
  - g. Full length / full-body
  - h. Standing
  - i. Sitting
  - j. Lying down
  - k. Emphasize the eyes
  - l. Subject looking at camera
  - m. Subject looking away from the camera
  - n. Self Portrait
  - o. Include the surroundings in the composition
  - p. De-emphasize the surroundings
  - q. High Contrast
  - r. Low Contrast
  - s. Profile
  - t. Silhouette
  
- IV. Document your photographs
  - a. Record and keep track of decisions you made to make photos
  - b. Assess your photos- Did they turn out as you expected, why / why not?
  - c. Document important camera settings you used
  - d. Was the photograph a success? What did you learn?

**What you'll need for class:**

You'll need a working camera, digital, film, or both. Accessories such as tripod, filters, flash, light discs, and hand held meter are desirable, not required.

**Text:**

There is no required text. Recommended texts for sources of information applying to this class are...

*Photography*, by London, Upton, and Stone, and  
*Complete Digital Photography*, by Ben Long.

**Evaluation & Grading:**

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Assignment;                                   | 60%        |
| <u>Participation, Attendance, Timeliness;</u> | <u>40%</u> |
| Total   | 100%       |

**Assignment,****Due Sat. 5/2/15**

1. 7 (seven) hard copy portraits, 5x7" to 8x12" (suggested size) brought to class, and presented on 5/2/15, with documentation. These should be fundamentally different photos, as in different poses, compositions, near / far, standing, laying down / sitting, candid, action, etc.
2. Documentation for each photo; see Topical Outline IV above. A copy of your documentation will be turned-in, hand-written or typed, 5/2/15.