



Community Education

Summer Term, 2025

Composing with Intention Vision, Rhythm, and the Art of Seeing

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Course Description:

This class will explore the 7 Fundamental Elements of Composition, help develop your compositional skills, and rethinking the way you see and arrange content in a photograph. Becoming cognizant of your vision, and how each choice, decision, camera setting, lens selection, and other intentional compositional decisions impact visual and visceral responses to your photograph; specifically how you want/intend a viewer to “read/respond” to your photograph.

By the end of the class, you should have a better understanding of the importance of integrating all seven elements of composition into your work, and how it enables you to consistently compose more meaningful, purposeful, and interesting photographs. Class size limited to 12 students.

Learning Outcomes:

Outcome #1: Understanding, seeing and applying fundamental compositional elements to help you achieve a higher standard for your photography.

Outcome #2: Clarify your visual message and successfully executing it with intention. Remember, a photograph includes 2 people—the photographer and the viewer.

Outcome #3: Get motivated to move out of your comfort zone by slowing down, exploring new subject matter and challenging yourself to achieve higher standards as a visual communicator.

Course Schedule

Dates: Saturday, July 12, 2025

Times: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Off-Campus Location:

- Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, 1001 E. 5th Street, Vancouver, WA 98661
- Class will be gathering and starting class in the Fort's Parking Lot (free parking).

Course Agenda

Throughout the class you will be assigned the first of 7 Fundamental Elements of Composition, create photos, and then select 6 of your best for instructor's in-camera critique.

If successful, you will be tasked with creating new photos that include the first and 2nd Compositional Elements, create photos, and then select 6 of your best for instructor's in-camera critique.

If successful, you will be assigned a 3rd Compositional Element, etc., etc. This process will be repeated throughout the class until you have successfully created 6 Fully Resolved Compositions, i.e., all photos containing the 7 Foundational Elements of Composition.

If time allows, and you have satisfactorily composed 6 Fully Resolved Compositions, you will be assigned a "Specific Subject" and asked to repeat the above process as many times as possible.

This hands-on class should increase your understanding, and awareness, of the importance of slowing down and taking the time to compose Fully Resolved Compositions, i.e., photographs that include, in some way, all 7 Foundational Elements of Composition: Light, Line, Shape, Form, Texture, Pattern and Perspective.

Note: Since this is an Off-Campus Class, dress appropriately for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes and be prepared to take a 45-minute lunchbreak with Q&A time.

Class cancellation

If the College cancels, due to any conditions, information can be found on the college website; www.clark.edu/cce. In that case, you will receive both a phone call and an email. Make certain that we have your correct contact information.

Class Evaluation

Class evaluations are sent by email. Sometimes the email will be delivered to your "junk mail," but we can assure you it's from Clark College only. Your responses are completely anonymous. If you do not see your evaluation immediately after class, look in your junk mail and send it to your email address. If you do not receive an evaluation, please email Continuingeducation@clark.edu or call 360.992.2939.

Looking for classes? Visit our Community Education webpage: www.clark.edu/cce