



Art of B&W Digital Photography

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Course Description:

B&W photography offers an alternate way of seeing and interpreting reality, thus providing unlimited opportunities for creative and artistic expression. What does one need to think about to be able to create compelling B&W photographs? First, a photographer must elevate the roles composition and light play—which definitely is an acquired skill. This involves understanding how to see and work with different qualities of light, seeing compositional lines, textures, geometric shapes and form, as well as how colors convert to tones in the Zone System. In this hands-on Intermediate class, and working in Manual settings, there will be a myriad of opportunities to help improve compositional and technical skills; any post-processing skills would be helpful. Not a Photoshop class; some location driving will be required; parking fees not included.

Desired Learning Outcomes:

Outcome #1: Understanding B&W photography requires a completely different way of seeing and working. It is a different photographic language, one which helps explore and develop our creative sensitivities, awareness to detail, and expands the opportunity to create more visceral and unforgettable photographs.

Outcome #2: Through this repetitive process, of visualizing color conversion to the Zone System, a photographer becomes more focused on the significant role seeing and working with different qualities of light factor in successfully composing B&W photographs.

Outcome #3: A residual benefit is working with and understanding Histograms, as well as opportunities to increase editing skills when converting RAW color files to B&W and Monochrome tones in the Zone System.

Expectations:

- Increasing your ability to see beyond the seductions of color while learning to see nuances within compositions, i.e., light, lines, texture, shape, form, etc., and how they would convert to B&W or Monochrome tones.
- Working with and understanding Histograms.
- Increased compositional skills specifically for B&W photography.
- Gain a better understanding of how color and shades of color convert to different tones, ranging from black to white, in the Zone System.
- Being in the moment, i.e., thinking, seeing and being aware of all these elements, each time you're composing a photograph, will make any photographer a much better photographer.

Course Schedule

Dates: Saturdays, 4/12/25 – 6/7/25 (No class 4/26, 5/24/25)

Times: 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

- Week 1: General housekeeping, introductions, discuss goals, expectations, opportunities and assignments; Q&A before photo walkabout. (Bring camera gear to all classes—except critiques).
- Week 2: Off campus photo walkabout with specific assignments; location TBD.
- Week 3: Off campus photo walkabout with specific assignments; location TBD.
- Week 4: Projected critique, snack and chat. Clark Campus, Building AA4, Rm. 102
- Week 5: Off campus photo walkabout with specific assignments; location TBD.
- Week 6: Off campus photo walkabout with specific assignments; location TBD.
- Week 7: Projected critique, snack and chat. Clark Campus, Building AA4, Rm. 102.

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.

Inclement Weather

If the College cancels due to icy conditions you can find this on the college website www.clark.edu~ If Community Education concludes that the weather is too hazardous, we may also decide to cancel this class. In that case you will receive both a phone call and email. Make certain that we have your correct contact information by viewing the class roster.

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