



Community Education Spring Term, 2026

BEYOND CAMERA BASICS, NEXT STEPS

Instructor: Sharon O'Keefe
Phone: 503-701-5347
E-Mail: sharonlavierokeefe@mac.com

Course Description

This class is a sequel to a camera basics class and provides a variety of opportunities to improve your camera-handling skills, working with lenses, refining compositions, understanding different types of light, exposure, perspective and more. Through projected critical critiques, off-campus walkabouts, hands-on and written assignments this class has been designed to push you outside your comfort zone; to help improve your camera-handling proficiency while advancing your skills as a visual communicator. My goal is to provide a safe and stimulating environment so you can take your photography skills to the next level, i.e., finding new ways to see more creatively, discovering new subjects, and improving your composition and decision-making skills related to technical, conceptual and creative choices. Required: Ability to work in Camera Manuel modes with an understanding of working with the Exposure Triangle. Not for beginners. Not a Photoshop Class. Some driving required.

Learning Outcomes

Outcome #1: Through hands-on activities you will learn how and when to select and use different camera settings and functions to achieve the desired visual outcome.

Outcome #2: You will learn through example, demonstration and personal feedback the basic principles of photography, composition, as well as the art of mindful photography.

Outcome #3: By the end of the term, you will be more proficient using your camera, understanding your lenses, how to see and work with light and how to compose more meaningful photographs.

Course Schedule

Dates: Tuesdays, 4/21/2026 – 6/9/2026 (8 classes)

Times: 6:00PM – 9:00PM

- Week 1: Meet on Clark College Main Campus, Building AA4 in Room 102. Introductions, PowerPoint presentation, discussion related to the class topic, expectations, anticipated challenges and review the week's photography assignments. Leave Clark for an off-site Photo Walkabout. Bring camera and 1 lens, ideal range 14mm or 35mm-105mm range, to this class; no Tripod.
- Week 2: Class will be a Photo Walkabout with targeted a photography assignment, held at an off- campus location (location TBA no later than the Sunday before class). Some driving may be involved. Optional: Get together after class for a debriefing and photo sharing.
- Week 3: Projected critical print critique and Snack and Chat held in Building AA4, Room 102 on Clark College, Main Campus. Review and discuss the assignment, any issues or problems; review upcoming week's assignments.
- Week 4: Class will be a Photo Walkabout with targeted a photography assignment, held at an off- campus location (location TBA no later than the Sunday before class). Some driving may be involved. Optional: Get together after class for a debriefing and photo sharing.
- Week 5: Class will be a Photo Walkabout with targeted a photography assignment, held at an off- campus location (location TBA no later than the Sunday before class). Some driving may be involved. Optional: Get together after class for a debriefing and photo sharing.
- Week 6: Projected critical print critique and Snack and Chat held in Building AA4, Room 102 on Clark College, Main Campus. Review and discuss the assignment, any issues or problems; review upcoming week's assignments
- Week 7: Class will be a Photo Walkabout with targeted a photography assignment, held at an off- campus location (location TBA no later than the Sunday before class). Some driving may be involved. Optional: Get together after class for a debriefing and photo sharing.
- Week 8: Projected critical print critique and Snack and Chat held in Building AA4, Room 102 on Clark College, Main Campus. Optional Blind Print Exchange and Group Photo

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/