

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

WE6617 EXPLORE BLACK AND WHITE DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Tutor: TIM SAVAGE

Dates: WEEKEND FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER – SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

Traditionally, black and white photography was a slow process, requiring skilled judgment of exposure and careful management of highlights, shadows and contrast. Variations of chemical dilution and temperatures would be used to generate stylized negatives, which would be manipulated and printed in a darkroom using different papers types and finishes to create a range of effects. Conversely, contemporary photographers equipped with digital cameras and technologies have a plethora of options to choose from. Though frequently, the impact of black and white photography is lost in the digital world. Digital images can seem flat, lifeless and dull, when compared with the deep blacks and seemingly increased contrast and tonal range offered by film and chemistry. This course is aimed at students with a passion for monochrome photography and a desire to access the level of control possible with film using a digital workflow.

The course mirrors the sequence of a photographer's workflow; having learnt to visualize the subject the tutor explains a range of camera settings relevant grey scale work, including file formats, ISO (equivalent to film grain), along with describing exposure adjustments for high key or low key subjects.

The advantages and limitations of colour conversion and manipulation software are identified and evaluated. Subjects such as noise handling and sharpening are demystified. Selective adjustments such as adding a colour accent to an image, creating a vignette to draw the eye and recreating traditional darkroom processes such as selenium or sepia toning are taught.

With the knowledge and skills taught, students gain the skills and confidence to re-engage with the craft of actually 'creating black and white photographs' rather than allowing the camera, software and printer to make all of the creative decisions afforded by digital technology.

By the end of the course the aims are to:

- Understanding of camera settings suited to monochrome photography;
- Understanding of image transfer and digital processing to extract maximum tonal range;
- Understanding of output options
- Using appropriate exposure modes for subject matter;
- The black and white mix and processing tools in Adobe Lightroom and finishing in Photoshop;
- Consideration of file types and appropriate outcomes;
- Identify and apply appropriate camera settings for a black and white treatment;
- Explain the camera histogram, and use the data to create technically accurate images;
- Describe the digital file and its range of potential outcomes.

LEVEL: BEGINNERS/INTERMEDIATE

For those with little or no experience and for those who have taken a related course. Suited to those who would like a structured introduction to a subject, with further building of skills to work towards independent practice.

You must have at least basic computer skills to attend this course and a familiarity with Photoshop/Photoshop Elements would also be an advantage. The course will be taught using full Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom software (Creative Cloud version).

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Tim Savage studied for a BA and MA in photography. He manages the lens-based resources and technical tutors at the University for Creative Arts, Farnham. Tim runs his own photography business and writes for photography magazines.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Friday 2 December

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
6.45pm	Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner
7.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm – 9.00pm	First teaching session – attendance is an essential part of the course.

Other days: Saturday 3 December

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Evening working: workshops are available up to 10pm for those wishing to work on providing this has been discussed with the tutor. These sessions are untutored.

Departure day: Sunday 4 December

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.00pm	Classes finish
3.30pm	Tea then departure

REQUIRED PREPARATION:

A digital camera with charged battery and capacity on the memory card.

MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm.

For any materials you need to purchase from the shop, we suggest you do so during the first morning of your course, after having discussed with your tutor.

Available from the Shop:

USB memory sticks

Please bring any of the above, if you have them, and in addition:

A working digital camera (preferably with manual settings), fresh batteries or charger and the camera to computer leads

Instruction manual

A tripod and any other accessories

A notebook and pen

A USB memory stick/portable hard drive via which images can be transferred to your own computer at the end of the course or for saving work in progress.

Please note: The course is for up to 8 participants. While each will be allocated a PC workstation some of the other equipment provided in the studio is shared amongst the group.

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. There are no health and safety restrictions on access to this studio/teaching space in the absence of the tutor. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.

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