

▪ Welcome

Welcome to our course: "Introduction to Digital Photography" by Gary Detonnancourt!

I am really pleased to have you on board as one of our new students and very much look forward to working with you to improve your photography skills and knowledge.

I have carefully created and compiled the very best resources available to the modern photographer. My goal is to help you become a better photographer through the following three principles:

▪

Learn

Through a well written class guide, complemented by curated video tutorials you will learn the core principles of photography.

This foundation of knowledge is key to your development as a photographer and will enable you to produce images that stand out from the crowd.

Practice

The next step is to take what you have learnt and apply it to practical situations. You need to practice what you learnt for it to be of any real use.

For each class I have devised a great selection of practical exercises as well as a project for you to complete.

Feedback

With each project, I will provide feedback, including practical advice, that will help you take your photography to the next level.

- Please join this Facebook group in order to interact with me and with other photographers taking the class. <http://www.facebook.com/groups/126463584190030/>

- Week 1: Equipment
- Week 1: Self Portrait Assignment
- Week 1: Facebook Assignment
 - Before doing this assignment please complete the self portrait assignment.
 -
 - 1. Log in to the Facebook group.
 - 2. Use your self portrait image to make a Facebook icon and post your image in the group.
 - 3. Write a post about your image.
 - 4. In this post please introduce yourself to the group. Tell us about yourself, what kind of photography you like to do, what kind of camera and lenses you use, how long you have been doing photography, what are your goals in this class or in photography.
 - 5. Include an image you've taken that you really like.
 -
 - Please copy the following titles into your post above or below the image and fill in your images information:

-
- Week 1: Forum Assignment: Introduce Yourself
- ISO:
- Shutter speed:
- F-Stop:
- Photoshop Adjustments:
- What is the subject of your image?
- Tell us about your image?
-
- Congratulations! You are now ready to use the forum any time you want to interact with other members, ask questions, post assignments etc...

- Week 1: Camera Capabilities Questionnaire
- Week 1: Questionnaire Review
 - Forum Assignment: Camera Capabilities Questionnaire
 - After doing the camera capabilities worksheet, answer the following questions.
 - 1. Did you find all of the functions? If not was it because your camera didn't have this function or was it because you could not find it?
 - 2. Did you learn about any features you didn't already know about?
 - 3. Which features would you like to learn more about?

- Week 2: What Makes a Great Image?
- Week 2: How to Hold Your Camera Steady.
- Week 2: Hand Holding Your Camera Worksheet
- Week 2: Using a Tripod
- Week 2: What to look for when buying a Tripod.

- Week 3: Shooting Modes
- Week 3: How to Focus Your Camera and Re-Compose.
- Week 3: Auto Focus Modes
- Week 3: What's Your Focus Worksheet
- Week 3: Facebook Assignment
- 1. Post an image of a static object. Use one focusing spot and AF-S (Nikon) or One Shot (Canon).
- 2. Post an image of a moving subject. Use AF-C or AI Servo. Remember the center focus spot is used with these modes. If it falls off the moving object you may lose focus.

- Week 4: Using Your LCD Screen to Proof Images
- Week 4: Digital Files Slideshow
- Week 4: Image Enhancing Software
- Week 4: Facebook Assignment

- Pick an image editing program. Then edit 3 images and show us the before and after pictures in the Facebook group. Don't worry if you can only make minor adjustments. For example try cropping an image, brightening or darkening an image, or sharpening your image. In my example below, the image was made brighter and I added contrast to the image, I sharpened the image, and I smoothed out the models skin.

Before



After



- Week 5: Slideshow: Composition
- Week 5: The Rule of Thirds
- Week 5: Defining a Subject
- Week 5: It's all about the Background
- Week 5: Line, Color, Shape, and Pattern Images - Please post an image with one of these characteristics.

- Week 6: Composition: Odds & Ends
- Week 6: Slideshow: Understanding Exposure
- Week 6: Exposure Triangle
- Week 6: Histograms & Exposure Compensation
- Week 6: Exposure and Metering Modes

- Week 7: Exposure Lock

- Week 7: Slideshow: Understanding Exposure II - Please post an image where you feel you are showing good exposure.
 - Week 7: Natural Light Portraits - Please post a natural light portrait.
 - Week 7: Sports Photography - Please post a sports image.
 - Week 7: Photographing Groups of People - Please post a group of people.
-
- Week 8: Studio Photography - If you can please post a studio portrait.
 - Week 8: Slideshow: White Balance
 - Week 8: Flash Photography - Please post an image taken with flash.
 - Week 8: Wildlife Photography - Please post a wildlife image.
 - Week 8: Macro Photography - Please post a macro image.
-
- Week 9: Slideshow: Night Photography
 - Week 9: Landscape Photography - Please post a landscape image.
 - Week 9: Digital Landscape Photography Techniques
 - Week 9: Time Lapse Photography - Please post a time lapse video.
 - Week 9: Final Facebook Assignment:
 - Introduction to Digital Photography I is now over. I hope you learned some new things and had some fun along the way. Never stop learning and practicing.

For your last Facebook assignment please post the image you were most proud of over the last 4 weeks. Also please tell us about your experience during the class. We are always looking to make improvements.

Thank You,
Gary Detonnancourt