

Introduction to Digital Photography: Instructor Jack Cutler

Photography, whether digital or film, is an expressive medium that lets you create images for art, preserve memories, or catalog the world around you. Whatever your purpose, remember one core principle: keep it fun. Don't let joy turn into tedium or frustration.

The gear you use matters far less than the images you make. Your kit is a tool and a brand, not a belief system. Learn the basics, then explore, experiment, and grow as far as your curiosity takes you.

Week 1: Foundations & Camera Basics

- Introductions: Who, individual goals, brand used & type of images preferred.
- Metering: 18% Gray interpretation, Sensor types, viewfinder, controls
- Shooting Modes: Auto, Program, Aperture, Shutter, Manual
- Lens Basics: Focal length, prime vs. zoom, cleaning.
- Hands-on: Set up and test your camera's controls.

Week 2: Composition & Design

- Rule of Thirds, Leading Lines, Framing
- Balance, Symmetry, Negative Space, & Perspective
- Creative Exercises: Compose without using the rule of thirds.

Week 3: Exposure & Technical Mastery

- Exposure Triangle: Aperture, shutter speed, ISO
- Depth of Field: f-stops, focal length, focus distance
- Metering Modes: Overall, center-weighted, spot
- White Balance & Color Temperature
- Hands-on: Shoot in different modes and adjust for varying light.

Week 4: Light & Color Theory

- Light Properties: Intensity, direction, quality
- Color Wheel & Psychological Effects
- Natural vs. Artificial Lighting: Golden hour, Cloudy days, Indoor Light
- Hands-on: Shoot in different lighting conditions.

Week 5: YOUR Digital Darkroom

- RAW VS. JPEG: File formats, processing
- Digital Darkroom Software: Workspace, tools
- Non-destructive Editing: Layers, masks, color correction
- Hands-on: Edit a RAW image and compare to JPEG.