

Portrait Photography

Portrait photography is about a lot more than just immortalizing a pretty face. Because people are not made up of just what they look like, but also who they are on the inside. Capturing that well takes tremendous attention to detail, and a different thought process than you would bring to a candid snapshot or a landscape photo. Here you will find course and photo shoot opportunities to help you hone your skill at crafting stunning portraits.



Overview

Through years of teaching and listening to student feedback, we've learned that a lot of people struggle with portrait photography. It can be challenging and even, in the beginning, a bit scary. If you've ever had the desire to craft portraits like the masters but find it intimidating to do so, this is the course for you. We'll work through the dos and don'ts and show you how to avoid the pitfalls - like posing blunders and common lighting mistakes - that can ensnare amateur photographers. We'll also engage a model for one night and head into the studio for some real-world practice. The culmination of the class will be a show-and-tell slideshow showcasing your best work.

Included with the course are all the notes you may need to take. We already have that done for you. You will get a well-organized book with notes and information for each photography class. This course runs only once a year.

Course Requirements:

- A digital SLR camera with at least an 85mm lens
- For best results, a full frame camera with a 70 - 200 mm lens is recommended
- Recording medium (e.g.: Film, Compact Flash or SD card)
- Instruction booklet that came with the camera
- Tripod (optional)



The Specifics:

Class 1:

Comprehensive review of camera basics

We'll hit the highlights of aperture, shutter speed, and ISO, and then cover how they interconnect. We'll give a refresher on whitebalance and light metering so that the mechanics of your camera don't trip you up.

Class 2:

Elements of portrait photography: posing, setting, different types

We'll look at how the posing and setting of portraits work together to support your portrait style.

Class 3:

How to light for portrait photography

Your choice of lighting can create different moods - and thereby tell different stories.

Class 4:

In-studio portrait shoot with a model so you can practice bringing it all together

There's nothing like some "real world" practice to cement what you're learning. We'll provide the model; you bring the imagination.

Class 5:

Editing and tweaking images

We'll talk about how to edit portraits for maximum impact without making them look overworked.

Class 6:

Developing your style and finding your niche

We'll spend some time homing in on your specific style and where it will fit in the photography market.

Class 7:

Pricing your work and packaging ideas

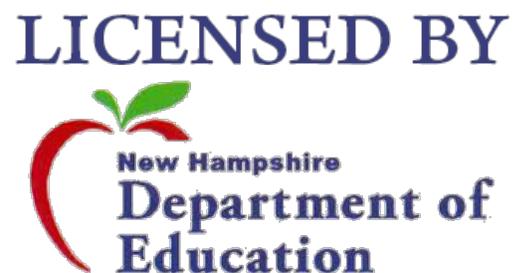
How to package, price, and sell portrait photography can be tricky. We'll help you get started, bringing our years of experience in the industry to the conversation.

Class 8:

Graduation Night: Share your business and marketing plan and receive your certificate in Portrait Photography

Bearing in mind that at times, Photoshop can be taken too far, we'll spend some time talking about what not to do. And then you'll receive your certificate in Advanced Photo Editing.

What makes it Xtreme? Read on ...



Take your learning to the next level by adding on the Xtreme All-Day Mega Shoot



We all know that practice makes perfect. That's the driving idea behind our Mega-Shoot. We engage the model and provide the lighting equipment. (And our mad skills.) You show up with your camera, your creativity, and your newfound knowledge of all things portrait.

In this Mega-Shoot, we'll start in the studio, where having total control over the light can lead to stunning results. We'll use a keylight, fill light, kicker, hair light and background light in various combinations to get exactly the look we want. In the studio, of course, we can move the lights around to our hearts' content to craft the perfect lighting conditions.

But what happens when we take the show on the road and have to rely on natural light? Well, in this shoot, you're going to find out. After our studio time, we'll spend several hours working outdoors. We'll explore the nuances of using natural light for portraits. We'll also practice the vital skill of choosing the right spot as our setting, because it's not enough to put a pretty person in a pretty place and hope for the best. When you learn to look at the world as a possible set, it will transform your portrait-shooting skills. It is possible to find lighting conditions identical to those in the studio - but it takes practice to see it. And, since the light source is not in our control, it may also mean moving your subject, or moving yourself, to get the photo you want.

Through it all, you also need to make sure you're staying connected to your subject. Getting the posing right. Paying attention to angles and perspective. Eliminating anything that will distract from the purpose of your image. It sounds like a lot to manage, and it is. But this shoot will be the ideal place to practice bringing it all together.