

## **Working With Digital Photos**

In the first of four modules in the Working With Digital Photos course: students focus on all aspects of the use and understanding of the digital camera beyond those features covered in the Intro course. The focus is on hands-on work, as well as extended study of important menu items, camera buttons and features, and picture-taking procedures. Students should bring their cameras with batteries fully charged, but do not need to bring user manual, cables, disks or anything else.

Module 2 continues with feedback on camera techniques and photo evaluation, focusing on the homework assignment that was set at the end of Module 1. Students bring those photos and spend time evaluating the "bad" pictures in a session entitled: "10 most common digital camera mistakes". Later in this session, we look at the digital workflow considering all aspects of the process including: photo importing, picture organization and folder /album structures, backup, photo evaluation, photo enhancement, and finally, use of photos in many different formats. Towards the end of the class, we look at the Digital Recipe - a series of steps that are applied to photos during the enhancement process, and students have a hands-on opportunity to try these steps out on a sample image on their workstations.

In the 3rd module of the Working With Digital Photos course, students need to bring 6 untouched photos to class - these constitute the hands-on project component of the course. It is important that these pictures are large original photos that have not been worked on before. In addition, if they are blurred or fuzzy, these defects can not be fixed. During module 3, students will be exposed to all of the wonderful Touch-Up tools found in Photoshop / Photoshop Elements, and will learn how to make all manner of adjustments to their collection of photos. If a student wishes to bring their own computer or laptop, that is quite acceptable, and makes it easier for them to transfer their skills outside of the confines of the classroom.

In the 4th and final module of this course, students bring back the 6 completed photos that they took home with them after module 3. Some time will be spent checking on the improvements that students made at home, and any changes that might have harmed the photos can be reversed before they are printed.

Module 4 focuses on the output aspects such as: printing, creating slide shows, making books (through use of online programs such as BookSmart a product found on the blurb.com website), configuring photos for use in email and on photo websites. Students are also introduced to a very important aspect of Photoshop: the feature known as LAYERS and flowing from that, important techniques of photo compositing that can be achieved through use of this Layers feature. Time is also spent both discussing aspects that affect printing of photos, as well as actually printing out the 6 photos students have been working on.