

## Photographing China

This is a digital photography course with the focus on China. Students will learn digital photography techniques using the digital camera and working with Photoshop. The course assignments are on life in China and sharing that life visually through their photographs and essays. Classes will include lectures from Chinese and Western photography and digital imaging professionals. There will be individual and group critiques of students work. The classes are designed to encourage and support individual thinking about photography and create in the students a discipline in their photography. All students will actively participate in group and individual assignments ranging from photojournalism to weddings. A weekly project as well as a weekly personal journal and a semester project is required for an assessment. These classes will be challenging and rewarding for those interested in photography and life in China.

The textbooks are:

Photoshop Elements 2 (old or new version)

China Underground  
Zachary Mexico  
Soft Skull Press

### Week 1

#### **Class**

Basic digital camera operation, P.O.V. and getting to know each other. This class will be devoted to understanding how to work and use the digital camera. Different points of view, in looking at a subject, will be covered. We will discuss our textbook Photoshop Elements 2 Solutions. During this first class, we will begin to understand how we can work together in this course of 13 weeks.

#### **Assignment**

Markets. This assignment is to cover Chinese markets, in particular, The Beijing Panda Market. The student is to share her/his vision and feelings of this market through photographs and a five hundred-word essay.

### Week 2

#### **Class**

Composition and natural lighting. A professional photographer will discuss different ways of composing digital photographs. We will begin to understand composition and the impact it has on our points of view. We will also learn how we can use natural light to enhance our digital photography. We will begin to understand the exposure techniques of professional photographers. From our textbook, we will learn how to import images, crop images and work on our images.

#### **Assignment**

Hutong family. Our assignment this week is a Chinese family living in one of the Beijing hutongs. We are to visit this family and record our visit with our photographs and our five-hundred word essay.

Week 3

**Class**

Digital imaging. In this class, a professional Photoshop expert will guide us through the basic tools of digital imaging. We will learn to input and manipulate images, as well as how to use and explore the software for digital imaging using our Photoshop Elements 2 Solutions textbook.

**Assignment**

Harbin. Your assignment this week is to document your trip to the city of Harbin in your photographs and five-hundred word essay.

Week 4

**Class**

Photojournalism. Brad Simpson, a professional photojournalist, will share his experiences and techniques as a photojournalist with us. We will get an insight to how we can approach subjects we wish to photograph and how we can be more relaxed and at ease while we are photographing them.

**Assignment**

The Military Museum. This week's assignment is the Military Museum. You will visit the museum and photograph your experience there and write a five-hundred word essay on your experience.

Week 5

**Class**

Artificial light. Another photography professional will explain how you can use artificial light in digital photography. This is an important class as artificial light can be such an obstacle in your work. You will finish this class knowing how to use artificial light to your advantage in digital photography.

**Assignment**

The Flower Market. Your assignment this week is the Beijing Flower Market. You are to share your experiences with the Flower Market in your photographs.

Week 6

**Class**

Digital imaging. A digital imaging expert will come back to our class and give us another thorough class in using Photoshop. We shall brush up on what we already knew and get a more comprehensive understanding of working Photoshop, without having to become an expert with the program. Our textbook, Photoshop Elements 2 Solutions, will be our guide.

**Assignment**

The Forbidden City. Your assignment is to photograph your visit to the Forbidden City. You will pay particular attention to your composition and your lighting. The images you capture should project your emotions

Week 7

**Class**

Black and White digital photography. Jack Wen, a photographer noted for his black and white work, will talk with us about his vision in photography. We will learn that we can change our view of traditional color photography to another of black and white.

**Assignment**

Children. This week you will photograph Chinese children in Beijing. Sharing with us what you see in your travels around the city and in the neighborhoods (hutongs) and writing a five-hundred word essay on your feelings during this assignment..

Week 8

**Class**

Nature and landscape photography. A leading professional nature and landscape photographer will explain the techniques of doing this photography. We will learn how to compose and expose different views of nature and the land.

**Assignment**

The streets of Beijing. This week we will walk the streets of the city and capture, in our photographs, the people of Beijing and their city life. We will also share this experience in our five-hundred word essay.

Week 9

**Class**

Chinese advertising photography. This class will have as a guest instructor, a leading professional advertising photographer in China. We will see how advertising photography has evolved in China and where it is today. We will learn techniques of advertising photography and how we can apply them in our digital photos of China and the Chinese people.

**Assignment**

New Beijing. This assignment is to capture the new Beijing through your eyes, using the techniques of photography and experience you have gained, so far, in your stay in China.

Week 10

**Class**

Portraiture. A professional portraiture photographer will visit the class and go over with us the techniques of doing good portraiture. We will have an insight as to how these specialists capture the telling images with their lens and how, with our Photoshop Elements 2 Solutions textbook, we can enhance and improve our portraits.

**Assignment**

The assignment is to spend the week doing portraits of people in China. Your photographs and your five-hundred word essay should reflect your emotions about the Chinese people.

**Week 11****Class**

Professional critique. This class will be devoted to sharing your projects with film and still photography professionals, who will give you individual critiques of your work.

**Assignment**

Self portraiture. This week, your assignment is to do at least two self-portraits a day for seven days. You will share these portraits, along with your five-hundred word essay, with the class next week.

**Week 12****Class**

Professional visit. A professional American freelance still photographer will visit the class and share his experiences in China photographing people, places and things.

**Assignment**

Hutong family. Your assignment this week is to re-visit the hutong family you photographed during week four and photograph them again.

**Week 13****Class**

Critique/Exhibit. This class will be devoted to individual and group critique and discussion of the work done this semester. We plan to have an exhibit of selected pieces of each student's work.

**Assignment**

Semester project. The assignment this week is to finish your semester project.

**Assessment**

The requirements for assessment in this course are as follows:

1. All assignments must be completed weekly.
2. All seven five-hundred word essays must be turned in the week after assignment.
3. One 1,500 hundred word Final Essay on your experience in photographing in China.
4. Semester project turned in during week 13.
5. Normal TBC policy on attendance/lateness and cheating followed.
6. An open mind and willingness to learn.

