

# **Sample Photography Curriculum for Peer Teaching**

## **Lesson 1: Camera Basics - Understanding Aperture**

**Objective:** Teach students how aperture affects exposure and depth of field.

- **Task:** Show how to adjust the aperture on a camera. Then have the learner change the aperture settings and observe how it affects exposure in a photograph.
- **Outcome:** By the end of the lesson, the learner should be able to set the aperture to achieve specific depth of field and exposure effects.

## **Lesson 2: Camera Basics - Shutter Speed and Motion**

**Objective:** Learn how shutter speed impacts motion in a photograph.

- **Task:** Demonstrate slow and fast shutter speeds and how they either blur or freeze motion. The learner takes photos of a moving object using different shutter speeds.
- **Outcome:** The learner can use shutter speed to create intentional motion blur or freeze action in a photo.

## **Lesson 3: ISO and Low-Light Photography**

**Objective:** Show how ISO settings influence exposure, particularly in low-light situations.

- **Task:** Change the ISO in varying light conditions and take photos. Discuss the relationship between ISO and noise in the image.
- **Outcome:** The learner can adjust ISO to handle low light while minimizing noise.

## **Lesson 4: Composition Basics - The Rule of Thirds**

**Objective:** Understand and apply the rule of thirds in composing photos.

- **Task:** Mentor explains the rule of thirds grid, demonstrates composing a shot with it, and guides the learner to take photos using this rule.
- **Outcome:** The learner can compose balanced photos using the rule of thirds grid.

## **Lesson 5: Leading Lines and Framing**

**Objective:** Learn how to use lines and framing to guide the viewer's eye.

- **Task:** Peer mentor points out leading lines and natural frames in the environment. The learner takes photos emphasizing these elements.
- **Outcome:** The learner uses leading lines and framing techniques to direct attention in their photos.

## **Lesson 6: Using Light - Natural vs. Artificial**

**Objective:** Explore how light affects mood, texture, and detail.

- **Task:** Experiment with natural light and then introduce an artificial light source (e.g., lamp or phone light) to see how shadows, highlights, and texture change.
- **Outcome:** The learner understands the difference between natural and artificial light and how to manipulate them in photos.

### **Lesson 7: Focus and Depth of Field**

**Objective:** Practice achieving sharp focus and controlling depth of field.

- **Task:** Have the learner manually focus on objects at varying distances and adjust aperture to control depth of field.
- **Outcome:** The learner can intentionally control focus and depth to emphasize subjects or create layered compositions.

### **Lesson 8: White Balance and Color Temperature**

**Objective:** Learn to adjust white balance for accurate color representation.

- **Task:** Peer mentor shows how to manually set white balance under different lighting conditions (e.g., indoors, outdoors, fluorescent). The learner practices correcting color temperature for various settings.
- **Outcome:** The learner can adjust white balance to achieve accurate colors in any lighting condition.

### **Lesson 9: Introduction to Portrait Photography**

**Objective:** Practice composing and lighting portraits.

- **Task:** Peer mentor demonstrates basic portrait composition and lighting techniques (e.g., natural window light, positioning). The learner takes a few portraits applying these techniques.
- **Outcome:** The learner can compose and light a basic portrait, understanding how positioning and light affect the subject.

### **Lesson 10: Storytelling with Photos**

**Objective:** Learn how to tell a visual story with a sequence of photos.

- **Task:** The mentor shares a simple narrative (e.g., preparing a cup of coffee) and demonstrates taking a sequence of 3-5 photos to tell that story. The learner creates their own sequence of photos to narrate an action or event.
- **Outcome:** The learner can capture and convey a visual story with a series of images.

### **Lesson 11: Editing Basics - Exposure and Contrast**

**Objective:** Introduce basic photo editing using exposure and contrast adjustments.

- **Task:** Using a simple editing app or software, the peer mentor demonstrates adjusting exposure and contrast. The learner edits their own photo to correct exposure or enhance contrast.
- **Outcome:** The learner can perform basic exposure and contrast edits to improve the quality of their photos.

## **Lesson 12: Final Project - Create a Thematic Series**

**Objective:** Synthesize learned skills to produce a cohesive photo series.

- **Task:** The peer mentor helps the learner brainstorm a theme (e.g., reflections, shadows, or textures). The learner takes 3-5 photos around that theme, applying all the previously learned techniques.
- **Outcome:** The learner presents a small photo series that reflects a cohesive theme, demonstrating composition, light control, and storytelling.

# Teaching Instructions

## **Lesson 1: Camera Basics (Exposure Triangle)**

1. Show the learner how to adjust the aperture, shutter speed, and ISO on the camera.
  2. Explain how these three settings affect exposure (e.g., aperture controls depth of field, shutter speed affects motion blur, ISO influences brightness).
  3. Practice adjusting settings while pointing the camera at the same scene.
  4. Let the learner experiment with different settings, reviewing how each one affects the photo.
  5. Offer feedback on balancing settings to get the correct exposure.
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## **Lesson 2: Focus and Depth of Field**

1. Demonstrate how to focus manually and automatically on different subjects.
2. Explain how changing the aperture (f-stop) affects depth of field (blurred background vs. sharp focus).
3. Have the learner focus on an object close to them, then on a faraway object, adjusting the aperture to see the depth of field effect.
4. Practice focusing on moving objects to see how focus changes.
5. Provide feedback on achieving sharp focus and controlling depth of field.

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### **Lesson 3: Rule of Thirds (Composition)**

1. Show the learner how to use the rule of thirds by dividing the frame into nine equal sections with gridlines.
  2. Demonstrate placing the subject along one of the gridlines or at an intersection point.
  3. Practice framing different subjects using the rule of thirds for balance.
  4. Have the learner experiment with different compositions, moving the subject to different parts of the frame.
  5. Give feedback on how to improve composition using the rule.
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### **Lesson 4: Lighting Basics**

1. Explain the difference between natural and artificial light, and the importance of lighting in photography.
  2. Demonstrate how to position the camera and subject in different lighting conditions (e.g., backlight, side light, front light).
  3. Practice shooting with the subject in various lighting setups (e.g., harsh light, soft light).
  4. Let the learner experiment with positioning the subject and camera to get different lighting effects.
  5. Offer feedback on using light creatively to enhance the subject.
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### **Lesson 5: Understanding White Balance**

1. Show the learner how to change the white balance settings on the camera (e.g., daylight, cloudy, tungsten).
  2. Explain how white balance affects the color temperature of the image (cool vs. warm tones).
  3. Practice taking photos with different white balance settings to see the color changes.
  4. Let the learner adjust the white balance in varying lighting conditions.
  5. Provide feedback on choosing the right white balance for natural-looking photos.
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### **Lesson 6: Capturing Motion (Shutter Speed Control)**

1. Demonstrate how to control shutter speed to either freeze motion or create motion blur.
2. Explain the effect of fast and slow shutter speeds on moving subjects (e.g., water, cars, people).
3. Have the learner take photos of moving objects using different shutter speeds.

4. Practice adjusting shutter speed for action shots vs. motion blur effects.
  5. Offer feedback on capturing clear motion or intentional blur.
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## **Lesson 7: Framing and Perspective**

1. Show how changing the camera angle (high, low, eye-level) affects the subject's appearance.
  2. Demonstrate framing techniques like using natural frames (e.g., doorways, windows) to add depth.
  3. Practice taking photos of the same subject from different angles and distances.
  4. Let the learner experiment with framing and perspective to create unique compositions.
  5. Give feedback on how perspective impacts the story told by the photo.
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## **Lesson 8: Portrait Photography Basics**

1. Demonstrate how to position the subject for a portrait (considering lighting, background, and focus).
  2. Show how to interact with the subject to capture natural expressions and poses.
  3. Have the learner take portraits, adjusting focus, depth of field, and composition.
  4. Practice different poses and lighting setups to achieve various portrait styles.
  5. Provide feedback on creating a flattering portrait with good lighting and focus.
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## **Lesson 9: Editing and Post-Processing Basics**

1. Show the learner how to import photos into a basic editing program (e.g., Lightroom).
  2. Demonstrate how to adjust key elements like exposure, contrast, and color balance.
  3. Have the learner practice editing one of their photos to improve its overall look.
  4. Explain when and why to use filters or more advanced editing tools (cropping, retouching).
  5. Offer feedback on subtle editing to enhance the image without over-processing.
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## **Lesson 10: Capturing Emotion or Storytelling in Photos**

1. Show how to use composition, lighting, and subject interaction to tell a story in a photo.
2. Demonstrate choosing subjects or scenes that evoke an emotional response.
3. Practice taking photos that capture an emotion (e.g., joy, sadness, excitement) or tell a story.

4. Let the learner experiment with different elements (focus, lighting, angle) to enhance storytelling.
5. Give feedback on how effectively the photo communicates emotion or a narrative.