

Seeing like a camera / Class by David H. Wells

The hardest thing about photography is learning to see like a camera. It is a skill that the best photographers consciously (or unconsciously) master. It is the difference between a beginner's occasional "lucky shot" vs the consistently strong images of a master photographer. Despite what the camera manufacturers claim, the ability to see like a camera is the most important thing in photography and not their cameras.

In order to see like a camera, students need to:

Learn NOT to over-think their compositions by including content that is intellectually important to them but adds little to the viewer's experience of the photograph.

Learn how to use the monitor on the back of their cameras to evaluate the difference between what they saw in their mind's eye and what the camera actually recorded.

Learning to see like a camera is a skill like any other skill, one that requires a grounding in the proper techniques followed by hours and hours of practice.

Topics covered will include:

- How F/stops and Shutter speeds control light (and their impact on the image.)
- What is ISO and how controlling it helps (or harms) your images.
- Appreciating the quality and direction of light (and how to use it effectively.)
- The impact on the image of varying the photographer's position (and angle.)
- The importance of "working" situations to get the best image of a situation.
- The impact of using different lenses (and when to use which.)
- Ways to control and use focus to create different narratives in your images.
- How and when to use the camera's controls to convey a sense of time.
- Digital image file formats, JPG vs RAW, and when to use each one.
- and much more

In this workshop, we will explore the proper techniques through a series of shooting, editing and critiquing exercises. Throughout the week students will

practice, practice, practice, building the skills they will continue to develop as they move forward in their photography.

Different daily lessons will include:

How to use these skills to make travel photos, images that inspire the viewer to want to go that place, eat that food, meet the people or partake of that experience.

We will be photographing on the North Shore and in Boston proper in order to create such travel photographs and to apply these skills to make good street photographs.

We will also photograph a few mornings and evenings to fully explore how to use light, shadow, night and twilight to gain a better understanding of available light, how it is shaped by the time of day, seasons, the photographer's positioning, etc.

This is a lecture/shooting class with extensive visuals. The class is for beginner and intermediate photographers. We start with introductions then the instructor shares his work, looks at student's work and teaches techniques. We photograph on location as a group in the afternoon to apply those techniques. The schedule is typically 9 to 2 (or so) in the class, critiquing work or discussing techniques, then 3 to 5 pm (occasionally later) on location photographing.