

# PhotOx Photography Society

(For University of Oxford Staff & Students)



Berlin © David Tolley, 2018

**Michaelmas Term – 17 October - 5 December 2019**

**Thursdays, 18.00-19.00 – The Collier Room, Regent's Park College  
Pusey Street, OX12LB (just off St. Giles)**

**Tutor: David Tolley  
Professional Photographer/Lecturer**

**Membership Fee: £70 per term – payable at the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> class**

David set up the **PhotOx Photography Society** to provide a friendly, creative environment, where University of Oxford staff and students, passionate about digital (or film) photography will receive inspiration, technical advice, and constructive feedback on their images. Sessions will continue in Hilary/Trinity, 2020.

Whether you have a Nikon or Canon DSLR; a mirror-less M4/3; a point-and-shoot camera, or an iPhone/Android – you will learn how to compose, expose, and capture better images. This is an excellent opportunity for you to improve your photography and to develop professional skills.

PhotOx Membership Benefits:

Professional feedback & advice

Printing-lab and photographic equipment discounts

Termly competitions to enter

Share images within a member-only Facebook group for constructive feedback

Weekly assignments to help develop your photographic skills

Option to join PhotOx-on-Tour trips to UK & Europe locations – recent locations: Suffolk, London, Berlin, Budapest, and Copenhagen.

Photography equipment hire – cameras, tripods, lenses, flash-guns, and accessories

To become a member of the PhotOx Photography Society email: [davidtolley@me.com](mailto:davidtolley@me.com) Please contact David using your University/OUP email account and put PhotOx in the subject box.

**Wk 1 (17 October) – Travel Photography and a Review of the Face/Culture-clash/Relaxation is... Summer Facebook Assignment**

Please email (or bring on a data stick) two travel images that you've shot during the Summer vacation (any location and subject.) for constructive feedback and technical advice from David (and other PhotOx members). Perhaps bring one image that you are pleased with, and one that didn't work out. Alternatively, members from last term could bring in two of their Facebook-assignment photos. I'll also be offering advice on the best cameras and accessories for travel photography.

**Wk 2 – (24 October) Technical Class**

Cameras, lenses, shutter speed, aperture, ISO, metering modes, focusing modes, PASM modes, raw v JPEG, white balance, flash, camera filters, etc. – an in-depth look at practical camera use – applicable to beginners, intermediate, and advanced level photographers. With the right App, your phone can make use of DSLR-style settings too...

**Wk 3 – (31 October) – Documentary Photography – Story-telling with your Camera**

How to tell a story through a series of images. We will look at camera and lens options, colour v B&W, and how to research, plan, and schedule, a documentary photography project.

**Wk 4 – (7 November) – Breaking the Rules**

A discussion about composition, camera angles, lighting, colour v B&W, etc., questioning received wisdom about using 'the rule of thirds'; 'always shoot with the sun over your shoulder', or 'avoid the colour red...', etc. Bring in two images focusing on where you've broken the rules effectively or where you conformed to the rules but were not pleased with the final image.

**Wk 5 – (14 November) – B&W Photography**

The B&W session will be part 'History of Photography' class combined with relevant technical advice about how to create dynamic B&W images with a good contrast and a broad tonal range. We will also look at toning options and printing-paper choices. We will then look at a range of historical B&W images and talk about the development of monochrome photography from 1839 to present day. We will analyse images from: William Henry Fox Talbot, Nicéphore Niepce, Louis Daguerre, Alfred Stieglitz, Edward Steichen, August Sandler, Roger Fenton, Ansel Adams, Edward Weston, Lewis Carroll, Julia Margaret Cameron, Robert Capa, Paul Strand, Bill Brandt, Man Ray, etc., before viewing PhotOx members' B&W pictures. I will discuss the above photographers' use of camera angles, lighting, composition, and exposure, etc. We will look at the difference between 'high-key' and 'low-key' images and how to create them. Tonal range, contrast, and the use of filters will also be discussed. Please send in/bring in two of your own B&W images for this session.

**Wk 6 – (21 November) – High-contrast photography**

We will address the problem where there is too much contrast in a scene for your camera sensor to capture. This results in either blown-out highlights (no details in bright areas of your image), or blocked shadows (no details in dark areas of your image). Techniques to solve this include image-blending (in Photoshop); HDR (High Dynamic Range) options, and the use of on-camera or external flash or reflectors.

**Wk 7 – (28 November) – Introduction to Digital Editing.**

During the digital editing class we will cover using Adobe Bridge CC (included with Adobe Photoshop CC and almost replicated in Adobe Lightroom CC) for:

- Ingesting images from your camera or SD/CF card
- Reviewing your photographs effectively and quickly
- Editing down your pictures to select the best ones to process/adjust
- Rating your images to reduce clutter and ease image selection
- Adding keywords to help you find your photos again at a later date
- Adding copyright details to protect against data-theft
- Safely backing-up your images files to protect against loss
- Adjusting the Bridge interface to suit your way of working

You will then see how Adobe Camera Raw (found in both Photoshop & Lightroom) is used to:

- Rotate
- Crop
- Straighten
- Adjust perspective

Adjust and correct:

- White Balance (demonstrating how to use a Kodak Grey Card in practice)
- Contrast
- Colour casts
- Shadows
- Mid-tones
- Highlights
- Reduce image noise
- Output files correctly for use in print or on the web/email

This will be an intensive but stimulating workshop that will dramatically improve your ability to produce the best quality files from your digital photographs.

**Wk 8 – (5 December) – Review of the term's photographs and social.**

This is always a very popular session. Please bring in two good images and one bad one for constructive feedback from David and other PhotOx members. The class will be followed by a pub trip to celebrate the end of term.

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