

# Macro Photography

203 400-003 CRN: 20206

David Denemark, Photography Instructor

To submit class projects and comments

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For PDF files of class work

[http://www.daviddenenmarkphotography.com/WCTC\\_PHOTO\\_CLASSES.html](http://www.daviddenenmarkphotography.com/WCTC_PHOTO_CLASSES.html)

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Class Assignment Schedule (15 hours)

Feb 1 – March 7, 2011

Wednesdays for six weeks, 9 AM - 11:25 AM, Room G-149

## Course Description:

This course welcomes the photographer into the detail that appears when the camera is brought in close to a subject. Flowers become landscapes of color, a butterfly's wing fills the frame like a wind sail, the face of a miniature figurine becomes a life size portrait. This course will give the photographer an opportunity to learn the skills of focus, lighting, and composition to turn the simplest, smallest object into a photographic work of art. Opportunity will also be given as to how best to use computer software to enhance macro images, as well as how to turn your macro images into posters, note cards, and framed gifts. This course will include in-class photography time, as well as a field trip.

## Suggested Equipment:

1. Any digital or film camera, with a wide to telephoto zoom lens **and a sturdy tripod**.
2. A wide-angle 35mm (equivalent) lens that zooms to 150 mm or better is preferred. Screw-on close up lens attachment or a 55-100 mm macro focus lens will give you the best results. I like to use a long lens (200mm-450mm) with macro focusing ability.
3. A computer at home to download and organize photos for class
4. Mini USB zip/thumb drive to bring your images to class for discussion.
6. High intensity, 1,000,000 candlepower light or strobe for light painting (optional).

## Course Competencies:

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Analyze and determine which is the best angle or position to photograph a subject in relation to background and depth of focus.
2. How to prepare the right camera equipment and accessories to prevent problems in the field, or when on location.
3. Understand and know how to take time exposures while using the tripod to gain greater depth of field (focus).
4. Overcome the limitations of auto focus and "digital lag" when objects are moving in the frame.
5. Recognize what obstacles to avoid and how to stay in a safe shooting area while shooting close-ups with a tripod.
6. Make adjustments to the camera to create better indoor macro photos with mixed existing light.
7. Know when and how to use a strobe for fill in flash and how to aim a pocket strobe properly for close ups.
8. Use advanced camera features such as custom white balance and exposure bracketing.
9. Use tips and tricks discussed to get those great macro postcard style photos of flowers, insects, small objects and animals etc.

**Absences:** Your attendance is essential for successful course completion, and you are expected to attend every class, be punctual, and do not plan on leaving class before the session has ended. If you *must* miss a class, please notify the instructor by e-mail or phone prior to the scheduled meeting time. Absences that endanger your ability to successfully complete this course, or absences that negatively impact others will result in you being dropped. After eight hours of absences the instructor may recommend that you drop the course. Excused absences will be only allowed for participation in authorized field trips, conferences, and intercollegiate games sanctioned by WCTC in other classes. It is your responsibility to discuss the absence with your instructor prior to the activity. **Make up work:** Due dates for projects remain the same, whether you are absent, or not. It is your responsibility to obtain materials or make up work from the session you missed. Lectures and demonstrations will not be repeated.

**Code of Conduct:** “WCTC, as a community dedicated to learning, personal growth and the advancement of knowledge, expects and requires the behavior of all of its students to be compatible with its high standards of scholarship and conduct. All individuals and/or groups of the WCTC community are expected to speak and act with respect for the human dignity of others, both within the classroom and outside it, in social and recreational as well as academic activities. The WCTC Code of Conduct and Academic Ethics Code further outline the rights and responsibilities of students. For more information, those documents can be found at: [www.wctc.edu/conduct](http://www.wctc.edu/conduct) “

**Special Needs:** If you are a student with special needs or would like additional help to improve your learning experience, please let the instructor know. Options are available to you.

### 2012 Spring Semester Class Assignment Schedule

Session/ Week	Discussion/Topic	Assignment/Project/Activity
1.	Class Overview	Introduction and Orientation to the course competencies. <b>Lab Activities:</b> Introduction to basic camera equipment used by professionals. Show samples of good close focus macro photos. <b>Project Assignment:</b> Bring to class two or three samples of photos you have that were taken with your close up lens and your current camera. We will discuss what works or how to improve what doesn't. Bring to class, personal camera equipment to evaluate for capabilities <u>Both Due by session 2</u>
2.	Working with the equipment you own. What makes a tripod good and how to use it right Depth of field, Focus, Composition and Cropping. Discuss field trip.	Review and discuss photo samples brought in by students. <b>Lab Activities:</b> Examine each student's camera equipment and discuss what is possible to capture with it. Have students experiment with camera options, practice methods for take close-up photos in class. Review examples. <b>Project Assignment:</b> Spend time photographing objects up close in different lighting conditions outside. Do this when the light is at its brightest. Use white reflector cards to add fill light. Shoot wide-angle close-up and telephoto views. Try to improve your approach to the subject angle and overcome the limitations of your equipment. Try many angles and get in as close as you can. Use your tripod for most shots and some without it. Save your images for discussion. Prep equipment for FIELD TRIP next week.

3	<p><b>Field Trip</b> This session will be held at the regular time at THE DOMES You must get there on your own or by carpooling.</p>	<p><u>Meet at designated location and receive assignment for the session</u> <b>Project Assignment for session 3:</b> Make copies of the SIX – NINE best images shot on location and crop, cut, arrange and paste them to a piece of poster board or in photo editing program or make a digital print or PDF file for review. Make an interesting photo collage. Try to show your intended audience a photo layout that will effectively communicate your style and ideas. <b><u>Bring your creation to Session 4. We will critique and discuss.</u></b></p>
4.	<p>Vertical/Horizontal, Individuals or Groups, Rule of Thirds and Framing, Developing the shot list for field trip. How to <i>light paint</i> with pocket strobes and reflectors on a macro photoset with a background.</p>	<p>Review and discuss photo samples/notes brought in by students <b>Lab Activities:</b> Discuss session topics and watch a digital presentation. Practice in class techniques to light paints a small object. Detail approach to shooting close-ups at home, as a student exercise. Discuss class project for photo collage of field trip edited images. <b>Project Assignment for session 4:</b> Prep equipment and pre scout location if possible, for field trip. Practice photo techniques for field trip shoot.</p>
5.	<p><b>Field Trip</b> This session will be held at the regular time at the MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM You must get there on your own or by carpooling.</p>	<p><u>Meet at designated location and receive assignment for the session</u> <b>Project Assignment for session 5:</b> Make copies of the SIX – NINE best images shot on location and crop, cut, arrange and paste them to a piece of poster board or in a photo editing program or make a digital print or PDF file for review. Make an interesting photo collage. Try to show your intended audience a photo layout that will effectively communicate your style and ideas. <b><u>Bring your creation to Session 6. We will critique and discuss.</u></b></p>
6.	<p>Short course wrap up, critique of collages and discussion.</p>	<p>Review results of photo project. <b>Lab Activities:</b> Opportunity for final questions regarding specific photo challenges.</p>
NOTE	<p><b>Suggested reading</b> but not required: Available on line and possibly at your local bookstore.</p>	<p><b><i>Understanding Close-up Photography: Creative Close Encounters with or without a Macro Lens (Paperback), Bryan Peterson (Author)</i></b>  <b><i>Digital Macro Photography [Paperback] Ross Hoddinott (Author)</i></b></p>

**Student Photography Exercise: Due by session 6**

Students will participate in the field trip experience or may elect to photograph a location of their choosing at any time during the class schedule. The idea is to accomplish the assignment requirements. The main objective is to get at least few close-up or macro views on film or chip. Student images/collage will be discussed in session 5, bring prints or digital files to final session in collage format if possible.