PHOTO 75- Introduction to Close Up Photography
- (Updated version for Fall 2021)

Instructor: Joel Simon

Course Summary:

Please refer to the catalog description.

Grade Options:

Credit would be given for attendance at 3 out of 5 class meetings and active participation.

Tentative Weekly Outline: Please note that this is presented only to give an idea of what to expect and is subject to change.

Week 1: “Seeing Up Close”. And “What is Close up Photography?”

*Introduction of students, instructor, and class objectives.
*The philosophy of “seeing up close” including close-up/macro definitions and distinctions.
*A brief summary of some typical close up images.
*An overview of potential close up photography “themes” along with a short discussion of those themes.
*This may be followed by a short “break-out” session for students to discuss visual themes that might be individually intriguing. Students will then be asked to share any thoughts on their individual ideas of a suitable photographic theme for our class.

*A review of photography equipment suitable for close up photography.
Possible homework assignment: Choose three subjects. Take and post a sequence of images that illustrate “getting close” for your favorite subject.

**Week 2: The fundamentals of composition for Close Up photography.**

We review the basic elements of composition and then examine how those elements pertain to close up photography. Compositional elements include: how to portray three dimensional space, visual balance, use of positive and negative space, framing elements, leading lines, selective focus, and seeing the entire composition.

Possible Homework Assignment: Take and post five close-up images that illustrate the fundamentals of composition.

**Week 3: All about Light.**

We review the basic elements of photographic lighting including the type of light, the direction of light, the element of contrast, and the contributions of highlights and shadows.

We also explore how we can create or utilize different lighting scenarios in close up photography.

Possible homework assignment: Take and post five close-up images that illustrate different types of lighting.

**Week 4: Post capture editing of close up images, introduction of specialized topics in close up photography, plus personal portfolio presentations**

*We review some of the post capture digital editing tools available to “personalize” close up images. The intention is to use images provided by the students to demonstrate some of the more commonly accessed post-capture edits. In addition to the “how” of post-capture edits, we discuss the “why” and especially how these edits can enunciate the intent of the image.*
*We further explore the relationship between representative and abstract imagery. “Transcending recognition” – when close-up photography can be used to create images that are not easily recognized.

Possible Homework assignment: students are invited to refine (and post) their close up photography portfolios.

Additional Possible Homework assignment: create three sets of images that show both a recognizable version and an additional version that transcends recognition.

**Week 5: Introduction of specialized topics in close up photography, plus personal portfolio presentations**

*Depending on time, we may offer modest insights to specialized topics in Close-up Photography.*

*Students are requested to share their insights into the world of close-up photography including how this course might influence their future photographic activities.*

Possible homework: for this class session we invite students to voluntarily present their portfolio of close up images created for this class along with any particular insights or challenges.

**Note About Live Attendance and Recording:**

**These class sessions will be recorded.**

Live participation is required in order for students to receive the full benefit of the course. Class recordings are not intended to be a replacement or substitute for class attendance.