

Composition and Framing in Photography

(learning to see through the lens)

Photographic Workshop Syllabus

Taiyuan Normal University

Taiyuan, Shanxi, China

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What is photographic composition?

Elements of composition and learning to frame the image through the viewfinder and lens of the camera are some of the most important aspects to taking good photographs. Composition works best when it is subliminal, unknown to the viewer except in recognizing that the photo just works – everything fits together perfectly. There are a number of aspects to a good composition. Framing is the first one, recognizing what to leave in the photo or what to eliminate. From within this, the placement of your subject within this frame will determine how natural and effective your final image is.

Various elements of composition that we will discuss include: the rule of thirds, using horizon in your images, the effects of lens choice (wide, normal, telephoto) and aperture (to control depth of field). We will also look at some of the more hidden aspects: contrast, highlights and shadows, shape and outline, leading lines, frames, and the perspective or viewpoint of the photographer. This perspective is a big part of what determines how your viewer sees your subjects in relation to themselves.

Course Objectives

We will be discussing all of these elements while continually going out and taking our own photos. Which are successful? Which do not work quite as well? We will see how these elements of composition can make the difference between an average and a great photograph, and we will learn to recognize the best composition as we look through our camera's viewfinder – learning to see through the lens. We will be applying the techniques we learn to both landscape and portrait shooting situations. And we will learn how to be beneficially critical of our own work and the work of our peers.

How can we use composition to enhance the idea we are trying to say in our image? How can we encourage the viewer of our photograph to sympathize with the subjects in our image, or perhaps place himself or herself within the setting of the image? Can we combine multiple elements into our composition in order to tell a complete story in a single image?

The end result of this class will be an exhibition of our best photographs. For this purpose, we will also learn good practices for preparing the image for display in PhotoShop. In addition to the physical exhibition of prints, we will also share our best works over the Internet to friends, family, and the world through the photo-sharing resource www.flickr.com.

Class Work Time

Since this workshop will occur during an abbreviated three-week schedule, our in-class and out-of-class time will be very intensive. Active participation from the students is a must. You will need to have a digital camera to take this class as well as access to a computer with PhotoShop. Expect to be out taking photographs every day, processing and preparing them every evening, and sharing your work with your fellow students during each class period. The time frame for this class is short, so be prepared to do a lot of work!

Projects

Week 1: Landscapes – how composition defines the space

Whether in a city or out in the country, a landscape photograph tells something about a place. We will learn and practice composition techniques that will enhance what we want our viewer to focus on in the image, and what we want to appear as background or foreground setting that further defines the place.

Week 2: Portraits – composition as it relates to people and their environment

Photographing people is one of the greatest challenges of photography, and one of its greatest strengths. But that strength will only shine through with a good composition – elements in your photograph that enhance your subject and tell the viewer something more about them than just their outward appearance. Your challenge this week will be to create lasting images of people, both friends and strangers alike.

Week 3: Perspective – how the photographer influences the viewer of the image

As the photographer, you have great power in portraying to others the people and places you see through your images. Learning perspective is learning to place yourself and your own ideas into your images. We will learn the power of photographic composition in influencing others with your personal perspective.

Final Exhibition

During this course, you will be creating many photographs, from which we will choose the best 3 or 5 per student for a final exhibition. This exhibition will share what you have learned in this class with your fellow students and the community. Additionally, these works will be uploaded to a photo-sharing website to be displayed for the greater global community to see and understand. Our message will be a global one, so we will share it with the world!

Our Goal

Below are the goals of Mr. Yan's program:

- 1) Educate Chinese students in the nature of Western art -- specifically art innovation.
- 2) Promote mutual understanding and avenues of communication between the people and cultures of China and America.
- 3) Educate Chinese art students that in being an artist, one should have responsibilities to society -- as human beings, as individuals, and as members of a shared culture, art-making should not be driven by money or success.
- 4) Bring awareness to societal problems and address the burden of consumption for Chinese and American people as a social responsibility.
- 5) Provide training in new skills for Chinese art students from American experts in their field through short, intensive instructional sessions.
- 6) Expand overseas visibility and enhance the international status of Chinese universities and students through publicity and increased media attention.
- 7) Promote the long history and vibrant culture of Chinese art and design to the world.

阎先生项目的宗旨是：

- 1) 培养中国学生更深入理解西方艺术教育的本质——艺术创新
- 2) 增进相互了解沟通
- 3) 培养中国学生作为艺术家的社会责任感——艺术不单是为商业服务，而是对我们所生活的社会和人类负有责任
- 4) 艺术家在解决社会问题所赋予的使命。
- 5) 中美在消费社会中为人类所负担的责任。
- 6) 快速提高中国艺术学生设计的技能。

7) 扩大中国大学在海外的知名度和提升其国际地位，宣传中国大学，向世界弘扬中国几千年文化对艺术设计之价值。

摄影的构图和框架 (学习镜头的构成)

摄影学习班教学大纲

太原师范大学 太原，山西，中国

安德鲁w. 罗斯-老师，2007年夏天

佛罗里达州立大学 塔拉哈西，佛罗里达州，美国

闫伟红-翻译. 费佛尔大学副教授

摄影的构图是什么？

构图的要素和学会通过照相机的取景器和镜头来构建影像是照好照片非常重要的方面。构图如果是在潜意识下、观者不知道的时候所创作出来的作品是最佳的，除了知道照片应如何构图，所有的一切结合起来才能产生完美的构图。构图是有好多的方面。框架是第一个，知道相片中什么应留下或什么应舍弃。然后把你的主题放置在这个框架，自然而有效的展现出你的影像。

影像构图的各种要素，我们将讨论包括：三分法，在你的影像里运用地平线，镜头效果的选择(广角、正常、长焦)、光圈(控制景深)。我们还将看一些比较隐藏的方面：对比度、高亮度和阴影、形状和轮廓、主线、框架以及摄影师的看法或观点。这一点将决定你的观众如何用自己的眼光来看你的主题。

课程目标

当我们不断地走出去拍摄自己的照片时，我们将要谈论所有这些要素。哪些是成功的呢？哪些做的不太好？我们将看到这些构图的要素是如何将一张平均大小的相片和一张大的相片区分开来的，我们将学习通过照相机的取景器来选择最佳构图-学会透过镜头来看。我们会运用学到的技术把风景和肖像放置在好的位置上。我们将学习如何从自己的工作和同龄人的工作中批判的受益。

我们如何运用构图来提高我们在自己的影像里所要表达的思想？怎样才能鼓励我们的观众来接受我们影像的主题或者他们把自己安置到照片中？我们能把多元素结合到我们的单一的作品中来讲述一个完整的故事吗？

课程结束后我们将展出我们的最好的照片。为此，我们也要学好把(准备好的)已有影像作品并通过图片处理软件展现出来。除了印刷版的展览外，我们还将通过网络与我们的朋友，家人和摄影资源网 www.flickr.com与全世界一起分享我们的作品。

课时

课时为三周，我们课内与课外的时间将非常紧密。学生的积极参与也是必不可少的。你们上课需要有一个数码相机来连接电脑使用PHOTOSHOP软件。预计白天外出进行拍照、并且每晚处理准备好的图片，然后在课间交换你们的作品。因为这次课时有点短，所以我们将要准备大量的工作！

计划

第一周：风景-构图是如何界定空间的

无论在一个城市或一个国家风景照片会讲述关于这个地方的情况。我们会学习和实践构图技术来使我们的观众集中在图片上，并且通过背景的展现或前景的设置来更进一步的定义这个城市的主题。

第二周：肖像-构图，它涉及人物和环境

摄影中最大挑战之一是人物摄影，同时它也是摄影中的重要元素之一。通过好的构图体现人物这个亮点，展现给观者的不仅是外在的东西，而更多的是这个作品主题的内涵。你本周的挑战将会长久的留在人们脑海里。

第三周：透视法-摄影师是如何影响观众的

作为摄影师，你有足够的能力来通过你的影像描绘塑造物和地方。学习透视法也就是把你和你的想法融入图像中。我们将通过你个人的观点用所学的摄影构图技巧来影响他人。

最后的展览

通过这次学习，你们会收集许多照片，我们将从每个学生的3到5个作品中拿出展览。这次展览同时将会向你的同学和学校展示你课程内的所学。另外，我们将把这些作品上传到照片共享网站展现给更多的全球公众，让他们看到和了解。我们的信息将是一个全球性的，因此，我们将与世界分享它！

我们的目标

以下是闫先生对此项目的目标：

- 1) 培养中国学生理解西方艺术教育的本质--艺术创新
- 2) 增进中美两国人民和文化的相互理解和沟通
- 3) 培养中国学生作为艺术家的社会责任感—作为人类，作为个人，作为共享文化的成员，艺术不应受到金钱或成功所驱使的。
- 4) 解决社会问题和中国消费的负担
- 5) 美国专家为中国艺术类学生提供短期技能培训
- 6) 拓展中国大学在海外的知名度，通过媒体的关注宣传并提高中国的学生的国际地位
- 7) 向世界宣传中国的悠久历史和丰富多彩的文化艺术与设计