

The Improvers COURSE



www.amandaburkephotography.com

This course is mainly for SLR and Bridge camera owners and focuses more on that type of camera and how to work towards complete creative control both in camera work and computer work.

The Improvers Photography Course would benefit compact camera owners in their knowledge in the skill of photography but they may get frustrated since their camera will not be able to do all of the things I teach.

Although 'The Improvers Course' is not geared towards professionals, it would make an excellent foundation for anyone considering a photography career. It is also an excellent choice for those that have been through a beginners course (whether it be our 'Beginners in Digital Photography' course or a course taken elsewhere), or for people that have a fair bit of experience with a digital or film SLR.

These people usually have either a limited or no knowledge of how to get full creative control of their manual settings. Besides teaching the technical side of the manual settings we also teach metering and understanding the importance of composition and light in photography. We also teach understanding how to get a digital image from camera to print in Photoshop or some other software.

I do refer now and again to what I taught in the 'Beginners in Digital Photography' course simply because a good proportion of my students will naturally come to me from there but by no means all will. If you didn't do our 'Beginners in Digital Photography' course you can take a look at the overview of that course on the website then you can get an idea of what we teach.

The course runs on Wednesday nights from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. It runs for 10 weeks and is held at St Patricks Parish Centre, Loughboy..

The fees for the course are 180 euro which are payable in full on the first session. There is also a facility to pay online by Pay Pal for those who would prefer to do that.

There will also be a small personal cost of printing and mounting of prints for an exhibition at the end of the course. This should be no more than €50 and is voluntary.

beginners in digital PHOTOGRAPHY



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Telephone 086 067 7875

Classes 2017

**The Beginners in Digital Photography Course
8 Week Class Starts Tuesday 10th January 2017
7.30pm – 9.30pm**

**The Improvers Photography Course
8 Week Class Starts Wednesday 18th January 2017
7.30pm – 9.30pm**

**The Beginners in Digital Photography Course
8 Week Morning Class Starts Wednesday 25th January 2017
10.30am – 12.30pm**

**The Beginners in Digital Photography Course
8 Week Class Starts Tuesday 18 April 2017
7.30pm – 9.30pm**

**The Beginners in Digital Photography Course
8 Week Class Starts Tuesday 5th September 2017
7.30pm – 9.30pm**

**The Improvers Photography Course
8 Week Class Starts Wednesday 13th September 2017
7.30pm – 9.30pm**

**The Beginners in Digital Photography Course
8 Week Morning Class Starts Wednesday 20th September 2017
10.30am – 12.30pm**

**Classes held at St Patricks Parish Centre, Loughboy
Classes may be subject to change of date and/or location.
Classes are always subject to numbers.**

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Should I be starting with the 'Beginners in Digital Photography' course or go straight onto 'The Improvers Photography Course'?

It's never easy to tell just what course an individual needs to begin with but what I can do is to give you some idea of what others had felt. A number of people who have attended 'The Improvers Photography Course' have had some regrets that they had not initially done the 'Beginners in Digital Photography' course. This is because they found there was more to the basics than they had realised, or that if they had done a beginners course elsewhere, that the course hadn't covered the things they needed to lay a foundation for more advanced photography.

In 9 years of running these classes I have only had to admit to two students that they were too advanced for the beginner's class and that was evident 2 weeks into the course.

Basically the beginners class provides a student with help to know what settings they need on their cameras and which to ignore. We cover the importance of things such as white balance, ISO, histograms, pixel quality and resolution, avoidance of camera shake, composition, use of light and night time work. On the computer side of things we cover uploading, e mailing, cropping, tuning, creative editing, printing, exporting and file management etc.

The Improvers class takes all of that as the foundation and goes on from that with the SLR user to be more specific on the achieving full creative control of the manual settings as well as understanding exposure, metering, depth of field, lenses, light and designing a shot. On the computer side of things we look at Photoshop or similar and cover aspects such as file types, sharpening, resizing, workflow, and preparing files for print and presentation.

To evaluate better which course you might be best suited for, try to answer the following questions:

1. What type of camera do you use. Is it a small pocket camera, one a bit bigger or an SLR which is the type of cameras where you change lenses?
2. If it is an SLR, how long have you been using it?
3. Did you use an SLR camera in the film days before digital cameras existed ?
4. Have you ever used any settings on the camera other than automatic?

The Improvers Photography Course would benefit compact camera owners in their knowledge in the skill of photography but they may get frustrated since their camera will not be able to do all of the things I teach.

If you haven't had the camera all that long and have never used a film SLR and have only ever used the camera on auto then the Beginners course might be a better one to start with.

If questions 3 and 4 are yes then an Improvers Course sounds good for you.

The Improvers
COURSE



COURSE
SCHEDULE

www.amandaburkephotography.com

WEEK 1

*Explaining SLR Settings
Different File Types*

WEEK 2

*Themes
Developing a Workflow*

WEEK 3

*Aperture
Levels & Histograms*

WEEK 4

*Shutter Speed
Sharpening, Resizing & Saving*

WEEK 5

*The Exposure Triangle
Selections & Layers*

WEEK 6

*Metering
Presentation of Prints*

WEEK 7

Field Trip

WEEK 8

*The Character of Light
Camera Flash*

WEEK 9

Indoor practice and exercises

WEEK 10

*Lenses
Camera Techniques*

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In preparation for The Improvers Course you might like to give some consideration to the following 2 things:

1. Project

Since a big part of the course is to produce a project on a theme, I would like to give you extra time to be thinking through what your theme might be. Your project should include between 6 and 10 images. Themes could be as broad or as narrow as you choose and to give you some idea some previous themes have been on dogs, flowers, water, bridges, zoo animals, scenes of Kilkenny, abstract, fruit, silhouettes.....

2. Imaging Software.

We will be covering how to prepare and edit your images on editing software. Due to the fact that Photoshop is the very best software to use, I will be using it for these sessions. It is by no means the only good software but I recommend it fully because of its ease of use compared to others.

There is no obligation to purchase Photoshop. You can download a free trial of the latest Photoshop Elements that should give you enough time to use for your projects. Wait to start the 30 day trial after the start of the course when you will be able to make good use of it.

Much of what we do can be applied to other software, the principles remain the same and if you feel confident to apply what we learn to your usual software then I have no problems with that. Some others however are more limited but not having Photoshop does not disqualify anyone from doing the course.

However, informing you in advance will enable you to consider your choices.

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TESTIMONIALS

- I must say that I really enjoyed the course, and kinda sad that its coming to an end. But I've subscribed to a couple of magazines, so that'll keep me going. I can actually understand the articles now, where as I was bogged down with the terminology before! In fact my hubby is thinking of doing your beginners course in the Autumn, probably cause I yap non stop about it... I might even repeat the improvers again later in the year.

Gina

- I've enjoyed your two courses immensely and have learned so much from them. Your enthusiasm for the subject is infectious and it's clear that you have put a lot of time, effort and thought into what you're teaching. I especially liked your ability to "de-jargon" things and explain in plain English what an f-stop is... Anyway, thanks for all your help - it's genuinely appreciated.

Brenda

- Just a note to say a big "thank you" for everything over the past couple of months. I found the classes to be enjoyable and excellent. Your generosity and helpfulness as a teacher are, in my experience, very rare.

Romie

- Just want to say thanks for the course I enjoyed it very much and look forward to taking better photos in time. I learned a lot. I think I just need to practice. My fear of pressing the wrong buttons or looking through the menu has gone and I am more confident with the camera. Many Thanks

Derek James

- I thoroughly enjoyed the class and I feel really comfortable using my camera now and getting the best from it. I think you covered everything, the topics were explained clearly and your slideshows with examples were great cos I knew then what you meant. Doing that was a big plus. Thank you Amanda for a very enjoyable 10 weeks. What I have learnt from you will stay with me for many memorable photos to come!

Roisin.

- What I liked about the Improvers course:

I like the format you use as it makes for an interesting and very informative night.

It's clear that you have put a lot of work into the preparation I think that it pays off.

It's nice for us to have the notes to keep as a reference.

I like that you start on time.

I like that we get homework (never thought I would say that) but it is optional and you never, never crush or belittle our attempts especially in class.

The Irish school system could learn a lot from your methods!

It is also very interesting to see everyone's homework.

You divide it into very clear modules so we have something definite to work with during the week.

The practice at home is essential as it was often then I understood what you were saying during class. Small things you said like moving my position, taking my time, little red tractors, metering on a brighter or darker spot or what aperture works well in certain situations are things that stuck in my mind.

I never thought that I would be taking photos in manual at the end of this course so a big thank you for that. I have learned a lot about the different settings, composition, light and metering.

The course shapes how I now look at things. I am looking at the effects of light and how quickly it can change. I find myself looking at situations and television programmes and seeing great shots. I can look at other photos and appreciate how they were achieved.

I feel you have brought us a long way without overwhelming us.

I think your passion, knowledge and good communication skills definitely give a sense of enjoyment to the course.

You encourage questions on problems and issues we are struggling with.

If I can't paint a picture and portray what I want it gives me great pleasure to get out in the fresh air and enjoy trying to get a photo.

You have certainly given me some of the skills I needed to get some good shots.

A big thank you and continued success in converting more of us from auto to manual.

Deirdre

Thanks for the great course, really enjoyed the class and learned so much. Thank you for the lovely pics. When I see your work I am taking my camera out of auto mode and going to put more time and effort into manual. My intention would be to aspire to your standard as it is lovely. When I can photograph like you I will call myself a photographer but meanwhile thank you so much for sharing your knowledge because it gives people like me an incentive and a chance to improve our work.

Yvonne

- Thank you again for your very informative, hands-on photography course. It more than helped me to achieve my main objective i.e. to be comfortable with the basic settings of a prosumer DSLR and more, all for a reasonable fee

Brendan.

- The classes were well-structured and prepared and your enthusiasm obvious. Providing course notes was very helpful as, free from the distraction of note-taking, one could concentrate on what was being said and ask questions about things not fully understood. Then, of course, the notes are there for revision afterwards. I found the homework given to be very important; it helped to consolidate what was learned in class and also increased my confidence in going out in public with a camera and tripod. It was also nice to get your assessment of it (always gentle and encouraging) and your suggestions for improvement. I also enjoyed looking at and learning from the other participants' work. I was apprehensive about submitting 8 photos for public viewing (and still am) but I know I have learned something from that as well. I found the field trip very helpful also as it provided an opportunity to discuss camera settings etc with others and to get to know them a bit better. I look forward to doing further courses in the future so keep me posted.

John

- I am sending this email to say "thank you" for a really excellent Improvers Photography course. I was teaching for 30 years myself and I would send any aspiring teacher to your class to show how it is done. Your preparation, presentation and depth of knowledge is just great. I also enjoyed the opportunity to display our work in the Mc Donagh Junction shopping centre. Thanks again and I hope you get millions of recruits for your next classes.

Willie

- "I recently attended the Beginners in Digital Photography Course which is run by Amanda Burke Photography and can say without a shadow of a doubt that it was the best thing I ever did in order to improve my skills. I used to follow the rule of "point and shoot", a slogan coined by some camera manufacturers to sell their products but now, not only have I improved but have also learned new skills and ways to take a better and more interesting picture which have more impact. I have gained so much knowledge on a wide variety of aspects pertaining to photography and best of all, this was achieved in a relaxed, friendly and fun atmosphere; there was very little technical jargon used, just simple, easy to understand terms and a clear sense

of progression throughout the course. If anybody were keen enough on photography, to want to make it a more productive and successful hobby. I would highly recommend the Beginners in Digital Photography Courses and Amanda Burke Photography"

- *Brendan*
- Thank you so much for such an enjoyable class. I love the structure of the classes. I was impressed with the folder we get in week 1, and then we have the notes from each week to refer to when we need to. The challenge of homework is great, as it guaranteed that I would focus on what we had just learned in class that week, and then it was nice to see everyone else's work, as we can all learn from each other. I found the demonstrations in class very helpful, and you always used such relevant examples. With your approach to teaching the subject, which you so obviously love, you take the mystery out of it, and you put the enjoyment into it!

Marian

- This is a fantastic course and well worth doing. You learn so much but it's fun also. Amanda is a naturally gifted teacher and the course takes place in a relaxed manner where everyone is valued and encouraged whatever their level of expertise.

Majella