

Discovering Spiritual Images <i>Syllabus</i>

Here's our class list and some notes from our meeting with Noel Barnhurst last night.

Class List:

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| • Bob F. | • Harry M. |
| • John P. | • Marilyn P. |
| • Ted C. | • Ray A. |
| • Phil S. | • Anita P. |
| • Marsha S. | • John C. |
| • Rit A. | • Noel B. |
| • Ellen M. | |

Noel identified himself as a still life photographer. However, many of his comments can be applied to images in general. My recollections from Noel about taking better images are:

- ***Edges:***
Solid edges, nothing cut in half. Edges can be different solid colors that frame the image in the foreground and add depth to the image.
- ***Depth of Field:***
Depth of field can be controlled visually, while length of exposure cannot actually be seen. Preview your images. Consider your depth of field as you compose your pictures. Consider using a medium telephoto to better define depth. Use a tripod if you are concerned about a sharp image. Move around.
- ***Composition:***
Try to compose with the camera rather than with computer software. Move in close to the target if possible. Consider the balance of color, lines, and textures in composing the image. Take lots of pictures since there is no charge for film.
- ***Those darn Camera settings and buttons:***
Don't be afraid of the various setting options on your camera. "You're not going to break it." Try several setting options. Take pictures of one subject from many angles, using multiple settings to see what looks best when you view it on your computer. Watch the backgrounds to see how they enhance (or detract from) the object in the foreground.

After meeting with Noel, here are our four different assignments, plus a “bonus.”

Take three images of the following. (Three different angles of the same object are also permitted.) We are looking at both a “spiritual” subject and a quality image.

April 11; 4PM, Rose Room

Spiritual images in nature and landscape.

May 9: 4PM, Rose Room

Spiritual images involving people.

June 13: 4PM, Rose Room

Spiritual Places.

July 11; 4PM, Rose Room

Spiritual Activities

August 8; 4PM, Rose Room

Review of progress to date with Noel

A Bonus:

Noel suggested the topic of “Something that a person views as a religious object.” He joked that one of his students had brought an image of a cup of coffee. I’m guessing that the student was a latent Presbyterian. Our bonus topic is “A religious object.”

Submission Process:

Please send your images to me at jcushman@sonic.net.

Our webmaster, Mike Tucker, will post them on a special section of our website so that we don’t have to wait until class time to view them. Send items as you accumulate them. Don’t feel you have to take things in order. However, we will discuss things in order. Also you may bring a “thumb drive” with your images to class so that we can transfer your work to the computer for viewing and discussion. If you have a choice, use JPEG format. Our class size is not yet closed, we have room for two additional students.

In my opening remarks I said something about which I feel strongly.

Too often we rely only on words to express our spiritual feelings. As a public speaker I am well aware of the limitation of words to express religious insight. Just being on the alert for spiritual images, will make them appear before us. Our images are our own. We are not in competition, and it does not matter if someone else likes or dislikes our work. All of that should make this a liberating study for us. Please stay tuned and engaged as we progress together. Noel has opened a window for us. Let’s take advantage of this new opportunity. - jhc