Fourth Edition
A Short Course in
PHOTOGRAPHY
Digital
AN INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOGRAPHIC TECHNIQUE
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Penelope Umbrico. Sunset Portraits from 8,462,339 Flickr Sunsets on 12/21/10, 2010. Photography can be your subject, as well as your medium. Umbrico began searching the Web in 2006 for the most-often-photographed subject, finding it to be sunsets (541,795 pictures posted on the popular photo-sharing site Flickr at that time).

Umbrico had 4 × 6-inch machine prints made from an “appropriated” selection (this 2010 piece includes only those sunsets with silhouetted figures), and exhibits them in grid form, about 8 feet tall. For a 2011 gallery show, she showed 1,058 4 × 6-inch sunset portraits; by then the total number of sunsets on Flickr had grown to 9,623,557.

As you make your own photographs, it is worth asking yourself questions. What are the ways you can improve the photographs you are now making? If others have already photographed your subject, how will your pictures be different? If you magnify the meaning your images have for you, will you also increase the impact they have on others? Read on.
If you don’t know anything about photography and would like to learn, or if you want to make better pictures than the ones you are making now, *A Short Course in Photography: Digital* will help you. This book is modeled after the widely used film-and-darkroom edition of *A Short Course in Photography*, but presents the medium in its current, electronic form.

We present here, in depth, the basic techniques of photography:

- How to get a good exposure
- How to adjust the focus, shutter speed, and aperture (the size of the lens opening) to produce the results you want
- How to transfer your pictures to a computer and make sure they are organized and safe from loss
- How to use computer software to make your photographs look their best

Almost all of today’s cameras incorporate automatic features, but that doesn’t mean that they automatically produce the results you want. This edition of *A Short Course in Photography* devotes special attention to:

- Automatic focus and automatic exposure—what they do and, particularly, how to override them when it is better to adjust the camera manually

Some of the book’s highlights include:

- Getting Started. If you are brand new to photography, this section will walk you through the first steps of selecting and installing a memory card, setting the camera’s menu options, focusing sharply, adjusting the exposure, and making your first pictures. See pages 4–9.
- Projects. These projects are designed to help develop your technical and expressive skills. See page 136 or 155.
- Making Better Prints. This includes information about how to adjust your photographs with image-editing software (pages 92–111), select ink and paper for them (page 117), print them (page 118), and then display them in a mat and frame (pages 120–127).
- Types of lenses (pages 31–41), cameras (pages 10–13), lighting (pages 134–151), and software for organizing and archiving (pages 131–133).
- History of Photography. The medium has been used for documentation, persuasion, and personal expression since its 19th-century invention. See pages 180–213.

Photography is a subjective undertaking. *A Short Course in Photography* emphasizes your choices in picture making:

- How to look at a scene in the way a camera can record it
- How to select the shutter speed, point of view, and other elements that can make the difference between an ordinary snapshot and an exciting photograph
- Chapter 9, Seeing Like a Camera, explores your choices in selecting and adjusting the image and presents ways to photograph subjects such as people and landscapes.
- An updated Chapter 10, The History of Photography, traces the technical, social, and artistic development of the medium since its inception.

New in this fourth edition are:

- The latest on camera technology and software, integration of workflow applications—including Capture One Pro—at every step, and expanded coverage of a Camera Raw workflow.
- New photographs by great contemporary artists, including Edward Burtyn, Ian van Coller, Sam Comen, John Divola, Filip Dujardin, Adam Ekberg, Kate Joyce, David Leventi, Martina Lopez, Christoph Oberschneider, Todd Owyoung, Christian Richter, and Geoffrey Robinson.
- The 1970s explosion of color photography is explained in the History of Photography, Chapter 10.
- Current product and technical information throughout, with updated demonstration and example photographs.

This book is designed to make learning photography as easy as possible:

- Every two facing pages completes a single topic
- Detailed step-by-step instructions clarify each stage of extended procedures
- Boldfaced headings make subtopics easy to spot
- Numerous photographs and drawings illustrate each topic

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