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# INTRODUCTION

## COMM 300 - DIGITAL IMAGING

I took this course in my Spring 2019 semester at Brigham Young University - Idaho for a Major in Web Design and Development. I had already been taking classes towards a Minor in Photography through the previous year. Since much of this course was covering principles I had been practicing; I had a high expectation for myself to deliver excellent work.

This photo book is a collection of my best images produced during the course. I am happy with all of the work and hope that you can enjoy it as much as I do. It was a real fun couple of months, from squeezing assignments in last minute, to spending a whole day taking photos in a ghost town.

I purchased my current camera, the Sony  $\alpha$ 6000, at the beginning of 2018. During this course I passed the ten thousandth photograph taken with it. The photos in this book to me are worth over ten thousand moments of careful practice, learning, and dedication to my art.

Behold: 10000





# MOTION | DEPTH

## MOTION – TIME FROZEN

Motion can be captured in two main styles with a camera. Frozen or blurred. My favorite way of capturing motion is with star trails. I'm usually up till two in the morning anyway, so it's no big deal to stay up for it. I love space a ton. Movies in space, games in space, photos of space; it all fascinates me. Star trails would be an example of blurred motion. The shutter can stay open for several hours and capture the paths taken by the stars as the earth rotates beneath them.

Sadly, cloudy weather made it difficult for any astrophotography at the time of this assignment. But one of my other favorite things other than space is fire. Fire is a tricky thing since it can move so incredibly fast. Are these fast exposures of erupting flames blurred, or frozen moments in time? I think we could really say both.

I sprayed a mist of rubbing alcohol into the air over a lighter. While a big fireball whirls above my kitchen table, I hold the shutter release down rapidly taking photos. Only one thousandth of a second is what you see now. Yet, blurred movement will still exist in small streaks of sparks, mist, and flame.

## DEPTH OF FIELD



I really love shallow depth of field. Shallow depth is one of my favorite things about photography. The first prime lens I bought is a vintage Minolta 55mm that opens up to f1.7. An aperture that wide bakes up some real creamy smooth bokeh.

For this assignment I used my 55 prime to get this shot of my guitar. I set up some LED lights in the background. A grid of blue to cast the edge light onto the subject, and a row of orange ones to show off the bokeh. I pull the focus in and the orange lights melt into soft circles of warmth.

I went for a hike up the Menan Buttes and got a shot from this cavity in the rocks. This was with a Rokinon 12mm prime at f22 for a deep depth of field. This allowed for both the foreground and background to be in sharp focus.





## LANDSCAPE | MACRO

### LOOK VERY CLOSELY...

Macro photography is just getting a magnified shot of something really small. It is so fascinating to see tiny things with such great detail. There are two basic ways to get macro photos. The expensive way of buying a nice lens dedicated to it. And the really cheap way of putting on a lens filter that basically works as a magnifying glass.

I used my cheap macro filter for this project. The filter is less sharp at higher focal lengths and adds a bit of chromatic aberration. That isn't much a sacrifice for gaining the ability to stay in focus at just inches away from your subject.

I put a lot of time into post processing on my photos. It makes a huge difference on Macro shots. The raws are often under-exposed and dull in their color. After some careful enhancing, I was able to bring these photos up to their beautiful potential. Watching that transformation take place often puts a smile on my face.



## LANDSCAPE PERSPECTIVE

For this project, we were to capture a subject from several different perspectives. I chose a tree at nature park in Rexburg, Idaho. I used a variety of lenses and focal lengths. I got in close and ran far away.

This was an efficient way to stretch those *think-outside-of-the-box* muscles. I walked around the park paying attention to the smallest details for composition. What I didn't know at first was that this tree was in the middle of a disc golf course.

I noticed a branch on the tree that must have been broken by one of these flying discs. This tree will have many scars throughout time that tell of the games played there. (Photo on page 3)





# SERIES | CREATIVE

## BANNACK MONTANA

I spent the day of May twenty-eighth in Bannack, Montana. Bannack is an abandoned ghost town which is now preserved as a state park. The town was populated with gold miners and their families for about a hundred years starting in 1862. What remains there today is fascinating to see, and I am happy to share a piece of the experience with you.

## GHOST TOWN – SERIES

Our class was given four specific goals to accomplish during the day. The first task was to get a series of five photos with the same theme. To accomplish this, I took many close up photos of interesting textures all at f1.8 for a shallow depth of field.

I took these photos whenever I had time while we were moving around and in-between stations. I love pictures that are up close with shallow depth because it lets your brain imagine what it's like to be there. Showing a plain picture of an entire object feels too easy to look at. I enjoy guessing what lies beyond the frame and letting my mind paint the scene.



## GHOST TOWN – CREATIVE



There were five separate challenges in this objective. One challenge was to create something abstract. I accomplished this by creating the composite on the left. I took several photos at the sand dunes on a very windy day in April. I knew one of them would probably work with this idea, so I took a photo of this school-house which has a Mason lodge in the second floor.

I thought this building would work well in this scene because of how weathered it was. I later learned this combination may have a bit of unintentional symbolism with what the Masons believe. They have a very interesting history that would be worth your time to learn about.

The goal for the image on the right was to make a commercial photo of a product. I used blue LED's to cast an edge on the left, window light on the right and foreground, and Shot at f1.8.





# FINE ART | PORTRAIT

## GHOST TOWN – FINE ART

The objective was to make five photos of fine art quality. There are a couple of things I think make a photo stand out from the rest to earn the title “fine art.” Beyond having perfect focus, correct exposure, and proper settings for the desired effect, the photo must have: excellent composition, creative elements and perspective, provoke feeling or emotion, and be overall captivating. Fine art is something you would print, hang on your wall, and take great pride in.

I think reaching this standard should be a difficult accomplishment. I don’t believe all of my work has reached such a level. But I do hope and aim to achieve such quality. These two photos I decided to share from this assignment are what I consider to be some of my print-worthy art.

I love the colors and textures in this photo of the bottle to the left. The warm glow and cool sharp edges flowing around each other practically speak a metaphor of the sophisticated taste of the beverage.

And I love the photo on the next page. The shadows, reflections, and highlights work together so perfectly to give depth to the milk pitcher. And the way it looks towards the person in the background seems to tell a story.

## GHOST TOWN – PORTRAITS

We had a wonderful group of models that volunteered their time for us to photograph. They dressed up to match the old western feel of the ghost town. We took photos with several different lighting techniques. We used flashes, LED's, reflectors, and more.

Portraiture is one of the things I had the least experience with up to this point. This was a great opportunity to experiment and learn. I prefer taking photos of people candid because I want to capture the truth. I just don't see the point in capturing a fake smile. But the models knew how to pose so well. I wanted to get the most genuine looking shots I could, so, much credit must go to them for doing such an excellent job.



## WILSON



I am a student, a guitar player, a keeper of the beard, and a photographer. I love shooting guns, playing video games, and driving my twenty-three-year-old car past rough roads in the middle of nowhere at two AM to get a few hours of the night sky captured.

I grew up in Tooele Utah, served a church mission after high school, and started my college education at Brigham Young University - Idaho. Photography is my biggest passion. I especially love doing still lives, astrophotography, and compositions with Photoshop.

In 2018, I switched to the right major and started taking courses in graphic design, typography, and photography. I am working towards a bachelors degree in Web Design and Development with a Minor in Photography.

I had a great time making this book and working on all these photos. I'll continue creating and taking pictures. To see my recent work, visit my website and follow me on Instagram. Thanks for reading!

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*All book design, writing, and photography by Wilson Christensen*

