
Photography and Archaeology

Summer course: 4000 level

Syllabus

Hanan Shafir, photographer

Bethsaida Archaeological Excavations

The Instructor:

Hanan Shafir is an art photographer with 30 years of experience in Archaeological Photography. Among other sites Hanan Shafir has photographed in **The City of David, Jerusalem, Tel-Hazor** for 7 seasons and **Bethsaida** for 4. His archeology photos have been published in *Biblical Archaeology Review*, *QEDEM*, and more. He has taught in high schools around Tel Aviv and had numerous exhibitions. Attached is a detailed CV.

You can see some of his artwork at: <http://www.hananshafir.com> . Contact and questions at: hanan.shafir@gmail.com

The Purpose of the class:

The purpose of this course is to give young photographers the tools to accompany archaeologists, in archaeological sites, and provide them with professional & scientific photographs.

A dig is an environment of destruction. One can only get to the next, and earlier, layer by removing, and thus destroying, the current level. An “objective” photo is essential to “remember” and display the excavated layers. The students will learn how to cope with the harsh field conditions of an archaeological site, in order to provide the best photo required. They will do it in real field conditions.

Method:

This is an interactive course in which the students learn and practice photography at an archaeological site. The students will be engaged in the course for 10 days. The daily activities will be divided into three.

1. Morning hours: 5:30 – 12:00 PM at the site where students will learn how to take pictures of an archaeological site. They will accompany the photographer, watch him work and assist him in real assignments.
2. Afternoon activities will take place from 4:00 – 7:00 PM when the students will be engaged in lab work, in which they will learn how to take studio pictures of finds.
3. Evening lectures: Every evening from 8:00 – 9:00 PM there will be lectures delivered by one of the faculty members of the expedition on various topics of photography and archaeology and a follow-up on students work.

The Program:

Day	Program
Monday	Morning: General orientation of the site and to photography of archaeological sites and objects. Daily assignment: The students will photograph structures and objects on the site without preliminary guidance. Afternoon: Studio photography of daily finds at Pottery Reading session. Evening: Lecture + presentation of photos taken on the site, 1 photo per student.
Tuesday	Morning: Students will practice depth of field and will assist photography on the mound. Afternoon: Studio photography of daily finds at Pottery Reading session. Evening: Lecture, presentation of morning photos. Lenses and their use in Archaeology. Call for personal project, Q&A.
Wednesday	Morning: Students will practice use of different lenses (or zoom lenses) from close up to panorama. Afternoon: Studio photography of daily finds at Pottery Reading session. Evening: Lecture, Review of the photos taken in the morning. Q&A
Thursday	Morning: Preparing the site for photography and assisting the morning shoots. Personal shoot. Afternoon: Studio photography of daily finds at Pottery Reading session. Evening: Lecture, Review of the photos taken in the morning. Q&A
Friday	Morning: Tools for Archeological Photography. Using of scales, numbers and letters in archeological photography. Starting of Personal Project (PP).
Monday	Morning: Shooting panoramic photos, large and small, merger practice + PP. Afternoon: Studio photography of daily finds at Pottery Reading session. Evening: Lecture. Revision of photo formats, Raw, Tiff, Jpeg, etc. Advantages & drawbacks. Presentation of the Field photos. Q&A.
Tuesday	Morning: Man & environment. Shooting of people at the dig with emphasis on “drama” for increased interest + PP. Afternoon: Studio photography of daily finds at Pottery Reading session. Evening: Lecture, Review of the photos taken in the morning. Q&A
Wednesday	Morning: Shooting deliberately BAD PHOTOS in order to practice correction tools. Afternoon: Studio photography of daily finds at Pottery Reading session. Photography of large vessels in the museum, from simple lighting to Drama. How to build your own portable studio. Evening: Lecture, Review of the photos taken in the morning. Some correction tools: Threshold, photo cosmetics: Retouching tools; balancing light etc. Q&A. PP. preparing of the photos for display.
Thursday	Morning: Working at the site with the instructor. Aerial photography (from a ladder). Afternoon: Studio photography of daily finds at Pottery Reading session. Evening: Presentation of Personal Project and selected photos from the dig. Will be performed on laptop computers.
Friday	Morning: Assisting in field photography.

Recommended equipment:

1. Digital SLR camera with Manual option (with an extra battery, a memory card and a charger).
2. Camera's Manuals.
3. Lenses: Wide lens (24mm or less), 50 mm lens, 80-100 mm with Macro, or Zoom lens (as 24-70) + any macro lens.
4. A jump-shot cable to transfer photos to laptop.
5. A tripod.
6. Camera cleaning tools (lens pen, small soft brush and a hand air-blower).
7. A Notebook.
8. A laptop computer with photo processing software (like Photoshop or Photoshop Elements that comes with the camera), ACDSsee photo manager, Picasa, etc.

Bibliography:

Complete Digital Photography, Fifth Edition (Paperback) by Ben Long

http://www.amazon.com/Complete-Digital-Photography-Fifth-Long/dp/1584507004/ref=sr_1_5?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1259856522&sr=8-5