

Las Positas College Photography Program

Artificial Lighting - Photo 64a

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Night, Low Light – Assignment 6

Go out and shoot at night. You will need a tripod, a cable release (or figure out the camera's timer), and some time.

You will be using long exposures anywhere from 1 second to 5 minutes, make sure you use a low ISO to reduce noise in your images. Be sure to use your tripod and make sure it is very stable to reduce camera shake. Use your cable release instead of the shutter button to further reduce camera shake.

Remember to check your white balance. Most night lights are tungsten balanced, but you should try both daylight and tungsten white balance and see which one you prefer.

You will be turning in 3 of the 7 techniques.

1. Painting with light (Subject). When the camera is on a tripod and the light source moves. Use the light source as a paint brush painting the subject with light.
2. Painting with light (Light Source). The light source moves within the frame, and you are painting on the sensor. Do not shine lasers in to your sensor. LED and regular flash lights are OK.
3. Second curtain shutter. When you set the flash to go off at the end of the exposure instead of the beginning. This can be done in the custom functions of your camera or flash. This can also be done manually by setting a long shutter speed, and firing the flash manually at the end of the exposure.
4. Flash @ Sunset. Backlight your subject with a sunset, then use a fill flash to balance the exposure, try using a filter or gel over the flash to warm up the light to match the warm light of the sunset.
5. Silhouette @ Sunset. Expose for the sun instead of the subject, Subject should be black.
6. Straight night shot (available light, long exposure). 30 seconds to 5 minute exposure of a night scene, no added lights. TRIPOD!
7. Star Trails. 15 minutes to 3 hours exposure of the night sky. Sand bag and tripod required. Try film in addition to digital.

Websites to check out:

<http://www.lostamerica.com/>

<http://www.schoolofphotography.com/night/>

<http://www.cambridgeincolour.com/tutorials/night-photography.htm>

<http://www.anayaphotography.com/sfnight/>

<http://www.danheller.com/star-trails.html>