

You are strongly encouraged to use these sheets as a checklist for your project.

Project Description

The assignment asks that you pick one of four ways to demonstrate your use of natural light.

The common goal for each option is to create three portfolio-quality photographs that you would be proud to hang on the wall at home.

The three photos are variations on the specific option you shoot. You are not required to do three separate shoots. The specific styles for each of the three portfolio photos is described in the options that follow.

Process shots: You are also asked to shoot and submit process shots. These photographs show the steps you took to create your portfolio shots—set up, testing various types of light, various positions of modifiers, etc.

Project Options

For this project, *choose one of the following* four options:

1. Still life that portrays beautiful chiaroscuro along with process shots of the steps you took to create the shot
2. Landscape series that demonstrates the differences between daylight, golden hour, and blue hour
3. Beautiful portrait created in indirect window-light and then again outdoors in full sunlight and open shade
4. Series of outdoor portraits made in different types of sunlight (direct sun, open shade, deep shade, etc.)

Option 1—Chiaroscuro



For this shoot:

- Create a still life that shows beautiful chiaroscuro
- Shoot in soft light and in hard light so that you can experience the difference. For soft light, use indirect window light or diffuse hard light through a sheet or other translucent fabric
- Shoot with and without a white reflector opposite the light source so that you can explore the look of fill light in the shadows
- Try different types of fabric for the tabletop and/or background
- *Process Shots:* Photograph each of the steps you took to create the shot—set up, testing various types of light, various positions of the reflector, etc.
- *Shooting Goal:* Three high-quality photographs of the same still life that demonstrated different types of chiaroscuro—such as one with super-dark shadows, one with abundant fill light, and one with in-between shadows.

Option 2—Landscape



For this shoot:

- Find an interesting landscape that faces opposite the sun. You do not want to shoot into the setting sun. Shoot the same scene in mid-day sun, golden hour, and blue hour light.
- *Tip 1:* Shooting a sunset is easier than starting in the dark of morning (for most people)
- *Tip 2:* Lock your camera down on a sturdy tripod. You want to keep the composition identical between the shots.
- *Tip 3:* Set your camera's white balance to Daylight. Do not shoot in Auto WB. Do not change the color temperature in Lightroom.
- *Tip 4:* Shoot a series of shots at a regular interval (perhaps every five minutes). You may not be able to see the subtle changes in light as they happen.
- *Shooting goal:* three high-quality shots that clearly demonstrate the difference between mid-day sun, golden hour, and blue hour.

Option 3—Windowlight Portrait



For this shoot:

- Create a beautiful portrait using indirect windowlight and then create it in direct sunlight and in open shade.
- *Tip 1:* For windowlight, do not allow direct sunlight to fall on your subject or the background.
- *Tip 2:* Keep the background clean and simple (non-distracting)
- *Tip 3:* Remember to have light in both eyes
- *Tip 4:* Shoot with and without a white reflector opposite the light source so that you can explore the look of fill light in the shadows
- Then recreate the shot in direct sunlight so that you can experience the difference in shadow quality and light direction. Maintain the model's pose and camera distance so that this shot mimics the composition of the windowlight shot.
- Finally recreate the shot in open shade (a shady spot with an open sky above). Maintain the model's pose and camera distance so that this shot mimics the composition of the windowlight shot.
- *Shooting goal:* three high-quality portraits that clearly demonstrate the difference between indirect windowlight, full sun, and open shade.

Option 4—Sunlit Portrait



For this shoot:

- Shoot a series of portraits outdoors lit by at least three different types of sunlight: direct sun, open shade, deep shade, etc.
- *Tip 1:* Use a diffuser and/or reflector (if you have a 5-in-1 reflector kit, try all of the fabrics).
- *Tip 2:* Shoot with the sun at several different angles to the subject. You can do this by circling your camera around the subject.
- *Tip 3:* Keep the background clean and simple (non-distracting).
- *Shooting goal:* three or more high-quality portraits that clearly demonstrate the difference between several different types of sunlight: direct sun, open shade, deep shade, etc.

Common To All Options

Document the Entire Process—I am interested in seeing your process as much as I am in seeing your “hero” shots. Explore ideas. Make mistakes. Shoot and learn.

Processing In Lightroom—You may use the controls in Lightroom to optimize your photographs. You may not take extreme steps, like using the Temp slider to create a golden hour shot from a neutral daylight shot.

Deadline

See Canvas.

How To Submit (two parts)

Statement—After you complete your shoot, submit a short statement through the assignment page on Canvas in Module 11 that describes your idea / goals for the shoot and lessons learned. You may type directly into a Canvas text box or you may attach a file that you type elsewhere.

Photos—In Module 12 (next week) you will receive details on how you are to submit your photos. The short version is that, using our standard workflow, you will import, rate, develop, and crop images and then submit your Lightroom folder in our standard method

Quality of Your Shots

While I do not expect that every shot made for this assignment will be perfect, I do expect that most will be well-crafted. This means that you pay attention to:

- Composition / filling the frame
- Exposure (use your camera’s histogram!)
- Background / depth of field
- Placement of focus

Overall quality will be assessed as part of your score for effort.

Reminder About Time Management

Give yourself the gift of time. Try to complete this shoot well in advance of the due date so that you have time to do a great job in Lightroom and to submit your written statement without being stressed by the clock.

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‘Natural Light a La Carte’ Project • Page 4

Scoring of Your Photography

‘Natural Light a La Carte’ Photography Rubric	
Criteria	Points
<p>1. Overall Effort 20–18 points = excellent, you explored many visual ideas in the pursuit of this project 17-16 points = above average, you explored a few visual ideas in the pursuit of this project 15-14 points = average, you thoroughly explored one visual idea 13-0 points = below average, your project lacks an overt exploration of a visual idea</p>	20 pts max
<p>2. Composition of Selected 4-star Photos 10 points = excellent, your composition directs the viewer to your subject in an extremely creative way 9-8 points = above average, your composition directs the viewer to your subject in a creative way 7-6 points = average effort, , your composition directs the viewer to your subject, but could be more creative 5-0 points = below average, your composition does not direct the viewer to your subject</p>	10 pts max
<p>3. Exposure of Selected 4-star Photos 10 points = excellent, you have a full range of highlights and shadow detail, with beautiful transitions of contrast 9-8 points = above average, you have a full range of highlights and shadow detail, with good transitions of contrast 7-6 points = average effort, you have a full range of highlights and shadow detail, the contrast borders on being a bit to harsh 5-0 points = below average, your photo lacks highlight and/or shadow detail or the contrast is much too harsh</p>	10 pts max
<p>4. Background in Selected 4-star Photos 10 points = excellent, background contributes significantly to the effect of the overall composition 9-8 points = above average, background contributes without distracting 7-6 points = average, the background creates a slight distraction 5-0 points = below average, the background significantly distracts from your subject</p>	10 pts max
<p>5. Placement of Focus / Depth of Field in Selected 4-star Photos 10 points = excellent, your focus and DoF center the viewer on your subject 9-8 points = above average, focus and DoF direct the viewer to your subject 7-6 points = average effort, you have placed the focus point and adjusted the DoF somewhat, but the effect could be stronger 5-0 points = below average, your focus point and/or your DoF distract from the subject</p>	10 pts max

Scoring of Your Photography

'Natural Light a La Carte' Photography Rubric	
Criteria	Points
<p>6. Holistic Scoring of Creative Expression Holistic assessment of how successfully your three 4-star photos demonstrate creative expression in the achievement of the visual goals listed for your selected option</p> <p>Exceptional: 40–36 points The work clearly demonstrates a commitment to creative thinking. Your work should reflect exploration, risk taking, and thinking with a photographic eye. A student in this category produces work that is “unique,” and “special.” This may be in the form of unusual insight, intelligence, and or creativity. Your work conveys an artist’s attitude. Excellent technical proficiency. Conceptual development is of a high level.</p> <p>Above Average: 35–32 points There is good evidence of a diligent effort to meet the requirements of the assignment but the photographer’s work does not achieve the standards expected for a rating of Exceptional. There are “minor” aesthetic issues present in the artist’s work. Work in this category shows general mastery of concepts but also shows areas that still need improvement.</p> <p>Average: 31–28 points The photographer attempts to complete the assignment but there is little evidence of a desire or ability to achieve excellence. There are considerable artistic issues that need resolution. The artist relies upon excuses for standard work.</p> <p>Below Average: 27–24 points There is no substantial expression of creativity. Major artistic issues are present.</p> <p>Unacceptable: 23–0 points Reflects a student uncommitted to the assignment.</p>	<p>40 pts max</p>
7. Assessment for submitting after deadline	– pts
Total Points	/ 100 pts

You are strongly encouraged to cross out the steps as you work through them.

Objectives In Lightroom

- Demonstrate that you know how to do the basic Lightroom import and export tasks covered so far this semester.
- Rate your shots to identify four of your best photos for scoring
- Use the tools in the Develop module to optimize the look of your four best shots

Import / Filename / Copyright

Hopefully by now you have our standard workflows under control. From this point forward, I refer to routine tasks without providing step-by-step instructions.

Feel free to use the assignment sheets from previous assignments as checklists. You can find them in Module 99: Checklists and Resources on Canvas.

1. Import your ‘Natural Light a La Carte’ photos into your Art 249A Lightroom catalog. Do not forget to create the Smart Previews.
2. Follow our standard procedures from file naming, copyright notice, and adding to a ‘Natural Light’ collection.

Use Star Ratings To Identify Shots For Scoring

3. Use stars to *rate every photo* in your shoot.
 - ★ 1-star = Poor
 - ★★ 2-stars = Fair
 - ★★★ 3-stars = Good
 - ★★★★ 4-stars = Portfolio Selects
4. You should have enough 4-star photos to satisfy the specific requirements for the option that you selected.
5. Filter on 4-stars so that you are looking only at your portfolio selects.

Flag Process Shots In Red

6. Use the 6-key to flag a requisite selection of process shots with a red flag. These are shots that show the main steps you took during your shoot. I want to understand your process...how you arrived at your hero shot(s).

Develop Your Portfolio Selects

7. Use Develop settings to optimize the appearance of your 4-star shots. *You must do something significant* in the Develop module to each 4-star photo. Consider using at least three sliders to be the minimum threshold for “significant.” Your processing should optimize your photo (make it more visually appealing). Avoid using the Develop module to fix mistakes in your shooting. For instance, extreme moves to color temperature or exposure should be avoided.

Optional: Crop Your Portfolio Selects

8. You may crop your portfolio selects as you see fit. You may also leave them as shot. I will assess composition based on the frames you submit, not on how they were shot.

Submit Your Lightroom Folder via WeTransfer

9. Compress your Lightroom folder and submit via WeTransfer to send2syl@gmail.com. Please be certain that you include “Module 12” in your submittal message.
10. Take a screenshot of the confirmation email you receive from WeTransfer after the upload. Return to the Module 12 Lightroom assignment page in Canvas and upload the screenshot.

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Scoring of Your Work in Lightroom

'Natural Light a La Carte' Lightroom Rubric	
Criteria	Maximum Points
1. Filenames—start with first and last name of student	4 pts
2. Filenames—end with #### number code assigned by camera when photo made	4 pts
3. RAW Format—all photos in collection are RAW files (.CR2 for Canon, .NEF for Nikon, etc.) unless specific exemption given previously	4 pts
4. All photos contain © 2018 Student Name in metadata	4 pts
5. All photos made for assignment are within 'Natural Light a La Carte' collection	4 pts
6. Escalating series of stars used to rate EVERY PHOTO in the shoot. Favorite shots rated as 4-stars.	6 pts
7. Adequate number of process shots flagged with red.	6 pts
8. Each of 4-star shots processed with Develop module settings (meaningful, but not excessive use)	6 pts
9. Entire Lightroom folder (including Smart Previews) compressed (Mac) or zipped (Windows)	6 pts
10. Zipped file sent to send2syl@gmail.com via WeTransfer	4 pts
11. Screenshot of WeTransfer confirmation email submitted on Canvas assignment page	4 pts
Assessment for submitting after deadline.	– pts
Total Points	/ 52 pts