



Syllabus

Course Title: Light, Lens, and Landscape: Exploring Photography in New Zealand

Program and Date: New Zealand Dec. 26 2026 -Jan. 9 2027

Instructor Name: Clinton Lewis

Instructor Home Institution: Western Kentucky University

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Academic Department: School of Media & Communication

Get to Know Your Professor

Hi I'm Clinton. As a professional photographer, I have had the opportunity to travel and photograph many programs throughout my career. None have captured my attention and heart like New Zealand. During the three study abroad classes I co-led, I got to know the country on a personal level, finding my favorite corners of each location. As an active trail runner and adventurer, New Zealand delivers like no other country. Exploring the islands through my camera gave me a unique perspective and dream to teach a photography course here, with some of the most epic locations as your background.

Course Description

Explore the art of photography using New Zealand's diverse landscapes as your classroom. Beginning in Auckland, capture the energy of the city and its waterfront through street photography and urban scenes. In Rotorua, shift to rugged terrain and action shots amid redwood forests, geothermal wonders, and Māori cultural experiences—perfect for portraits and storytelling. Conclude in Wellington, a cosmopolitan hub ideal for street photography, featuring the vibrant waterfront, the National Museum, and scenic trails in Mt. Victoria, where iconic film scenes were shot. This course blends technical skills with creative vision, offering students opportunities to master composition, lighting, and narrative through immersive experiences across urban and natural environments.

Course Level and Credit Hours

100-level course. 3 credit hours

Prerequisite(s)

N/A



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Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of all coursework with a passing grade and full participation in course activities, students shall be able to:

1. Master the functions of their camera and understand exposure.
2. Demonstrate a clear understanding of photographic composition, exposure and camera functions while navigating the intricacies of international travel and cultures.
3. Capture peak action and storytelling moments.
4. Communicate the cultural and geographic identity of the Māori with authenticity.

Required Readings and Materials

Camera manual

Assignments and Grades

LIST OF ASSIGNMENTS	Points
Pre-departure reading quiz (camera manual)	50
Photo: composition	100
Photo: light	100
Photo: portrait	100
Photo: nature	100
Photo: action/sports	100
Photo: three-picture package	100
Five-minute presentation of your research on photographic concept/photographer/location and relationship to class. (outline due in early Dec.)	200
Reflective journal of daily activities and summary essay	150
Total	1000
Scale: 900-1000 = A; 800-899 = B; 700-799 = C; 600-699 = D; <600 = F	

Grading Scale

The following scale will be used to compute your grade.

Scale: 900-1000 = A; 800-899 = B; 700-799 = C; 600-699 = D; <600 = F

Onsite Learning Experiences and Activities

Onsite learning experiences in this class will likely include the following site visits. This is a tentative list which will be replaced with a detailed daily itinerary of class meetings and field trips prior to the departure date.

- Downtown Auckland
- Auckland's Mt. Eden Park (One Tree Hill)
- Auckland SkyTower
- Hobbiton in Matamata
- Rotorua mountain bike trails
- Rotorua geothermal Te Puia Park
- Rotorua Māori village
- Rotorua redwood tree canopy tours
- Wellington downtown
- Wellington Mt. Victoria Park
- Wellington art studios
- Wellington botanic gardens and national museum

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled activities and class meetings as well as field trip excursions. This includes any virtual meetings before and after the onsite experience. Repeated absences, including for ill health, will require documentation to be excused.

Academic Integrity Policy

ACEJMC Professional Values and Competencies:

The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication requires that, irrespective of their particular specialization, all graduates should be aware of certain core values and competencies and be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of gender, race ethnicity, sexual orientation, and, as appropriate, other forms of diversity in domestic society in relation to mass communications
- Understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information
- Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity
- Think critically, creatively and independently
- Conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to the communications professions in which they work
- Write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes they serve
- Critically evaluate their own work and that of others for



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Physical Expectations

Program requires walking 3-5 miles per day on uneven pavement in all kinds of weather and long periods of standing. Students must be able to carry their own bags and belongings.

Be able to carry and use your camera gear in the above conditions

Disability Accommodation

CCSA is committed to providing access to education abroad to the extent possible in a study abroad setting. The earlier CCSA and the faculty know the needs, the more likely we can accommodate them. At a minimum, students seeking accommodations are to contact both the CCSA office and the faculty one month in advance of the program's beginning. Students seeking such accommodation must provide CCSA with a copy of the letter on file with their own Office of Disability Services outlining what services they receive on their home campus.

Title IX Policy

Sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature) and sexual discrimination violate CCSA policies. Students experiencing such behavior may obtain support from the Onsite Program Director or the CCSA Executive Director. To report sexual misconduct or sex discrimination, contact either of these two officers. Disclosure to faculty instructors or CCSA officers of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex discrimination occurring on the program or involving a visitor, student or employee is not confidential under Title IX. Faculty and other CCSA employees are required to forward such reports, including names and circumstances, to the CCSA Executive Director.

Statement about Final Syllabus

Please note that all CCSA syllabi are subject to change, but every effort will be made to ensure participants receive notice of such changes in a timely manner.