



# **Lightroom for Photographers**

## **The Complete Course**

### **Introduction**

- Welcome to the course
- About your instructor
- What the course is about - start to finish
- How the course is laid out by module > tools
- How to get the most out of the course
- Where to download the raw files and what's included in the course

#### **01. Getting started with Lightroom Classic**

- a. Lightroom Classic versus CC versus mobile (this course is for Classic only)
- b. Downloading Lightroom Classic and ACR
- c. Keeping Lightroom updated
- d. Getting the sample images and opening them in Lightroom
- e. Links for support if you need help
- f. Lightroom keyboard shortcuts PDF download link

#### **02. The Lightroom Catalog and Important Settings**

- a. What is a catalog and how does it work
- b. Where is the catalog (and where to put it)
- c. Where are your images (where to put them)?
- d. Thinking about organizing first (folders, subfolders, parent folders, names, etc.)
- e. Preferences set up (setting standard preview size, export, history, cache)
- f. Catalog settings
  - i. backup prompt and how to set the location

# Library module

## **03. Introduction to the Library Module**

- a. Customizing the top panel (hide what you don't use)
- b. View options for overlays (how to customize)
- c. Side panels how to hide/show and Solo mode
- d. Zooming in and out on an image
- e. What are 1:1 and Smart previews
- f. How to make and discard them

## **04. Flagging, ratings, and color labels**

- a. How to apply each of the star ratings
- b. The 5 stars smart collection and where to find it
- c. Picks versus reject versus unpicks
- d. Color labels
- e. Some ideas on how to use each of them

## **05. Using the toolbar**

- a. How to show/hide it
- b. How to customize it
- c. How to resize the thumbnails
- d. Sorting by flag, rating, colors, and other criteria
- e. Overview of the view modes
  - i. Grid view
  - ii. Single image (Loupe view)
  - iii. Compare mode
  - iv. N (survey mode)
  - v. People view

## **06. Filtering images using the bar at the top**

- a. How to show/hide it
- b. How to find images using different criteria using this powerful tool (you need to know how to use it!)
- c. How to show and use the lower filter bar too for a shortcut

## **07. Moving and/or renaming images and folders**

- a. All about Folders and image organization
- b. Important: why you need to move and rename things INSIDE Lightroom
- c. Batch renaming
- d. See what happens when you do it outside Lightroom
- e. How to relink when that happens or if you have missing images or folders

**08. Keywords**

- a. Manual adding keywords
- b. Keyword sets
- c. Suggestions
- d. How to use the Spray Can tool
- e. Keyword hierarchy
- f. Adding keywords using <
- g. Organizing your keywords

**09. Metadata**

- a. What is metadata
- b. Metadata is stored in two main places: internally and externally (and what that means)
- c. Why metadata is SO important
  - i. Searching for images
  - ii. Follows your images online
- d. What your camera saves/adds
  - i. EXIF data
  - ii. Exposure info
  - iii. Camera/lens info
  - iv. Location if it has GPS
  - v. NOTE: some cameras allow you to add copyright to the image at the time of capture
- e. What can you add for metadata?
  - i. Title
  - ii. Caption
  - iii. Location
  - iv. Copyright
  - v. Tutorial on how to make a copyright preset for yourself
  - vi. Model info and release
- f. XMP (Extensible Metadata Platform) data
  - i. What is it?
  - ii. Why I recommend NOT to use these files
- g. How to add metadata or edit it
- h. NOTE: Remember to include it when exporting!!!! Important!!

**10. Importing images**

- a. How to download a few stock images (link provided to a collection for students)
- b. Go take 3-5 photos with your camera and have the memory card handy
- c. How to open the import box (several ways to do so)
- d. Why to use a card reader and not a cord to the camera for downloading images

- e. Overview of each setting at the top of the screen (add, move, copy, copy as DNG - when to use each)
- f. Go over each of the options on the right-hand side panel
  - i. Build previews
  - ii. Standard size what to use here
  - iii. 1:1 previews and Smart Previews - what are they, and when to use them
  - iv. Renaming (how to make a preset for this)
  - v. Making and using Import develop presets
  - vi. Adding general Keywords
  - vii. Using the copyright preset that you made in lesson 9
  - viii. Destination (where and how to save and organize your photos into folders)
    - 1. By date
    - 2. Into one folder
    - 3. Show how I organize mine and why

## **11. Miscellaneous**

- a. Stacking images
- b. Virtual copies
- c. Convert to DNG
- d. Editing the capture date/time for a set of images
- e. Lights out view
- f. Using two monitors

## **12. Collections**

- a. Collection folders and galleries
- b. Using collections to organize your photos
- c. Smart collections
- d. Quick collection

# **Develop Module**

## **13. Overview of the tools**

- a. Global versus local adjustments
- b. Solo mode
- c. Overview of the left side panel
  - i. Navigator (zooming and moving around)
  - ii. Snapshots and history
  - iii. Presets
- d. Overview of the right panel tools
  - i. What each tool does briefly
  - ii. Buttons at the bottom: previous, sync, reset

- e. Approach to editing - my upside-down trick

#### **14. Basic panel and histogram**

- a. Overview of all the tools
  - i. Color profile
  - ii. White balance (sliders, presets, eye-dropper)
  - iii. Tone sliders
  - iv. Presence sliders
- b. How to understand and use the histogram when editing
- c. Fixing high contrast
- d. Clipping explained and how to fix it
- e. How to set the black and white end points and what that means
- f. How to use a scrubby slider
- g. How to reset sliders or sections

#### **15. Crop tool**

- a. How to straighten a crooked image (4 methods)
- b. Aspect ratio
- c. Crop tool presets and how to use and make them

#### **16. Spot removal tool**

- a. Cloning versus healing tool
- b. How and when to use each
- c. What do the settings mean (size, feather, opacity)

#### **17. Lens Corrections panel**

- a. Why you should use this panel early in our editing (or make an import preset)
- b. Profile settings (what to do if your lens isn't found or listed)
- c. Manual settings (using the defringe tool and what that means, removing lens vignetting)

#### **18. Tone Curve**

- a. Overview of how it works
- b. What is an S-Curve and how to make one?
- c. Using curves for tonal adjustments
- d. Using curves for color adjustments and stylization

#### **19. HSL**

- a. Why this is such a useful tool
- b. How and when to use it
- c. How to use the targeted adjustment tool

#### **20. Black & White Conversion**

- a. The right and wrong way to do it (or rather the bad and better way to do it)
- b. Using the color sliders in the black and white mix
- c. Partial colorization
- d. Watch out for camera monochrome profiles
- e. When to convert an image to b/w

**21. Color Grading**

- a. How and when to use this tool
- b. Why it's not just for monochrome images
- c. What you can do with it

**22. Detail**

- a. How to sharpen images properly
- b. Using the masking slider
- c. Noise reduction
- d. Other options for more noise reduction or sharpening

**23. Transform**

- a. Using this tool to correct perspective distortion, especially with city or architecture images
- b. Using the automatic options
- c. Doing a guided transform
- d. Using the sliders

**24. Effects (vignette/grain)**

- a. My trick for getting the vignette settings right
- b. Why add a vignette to your images
- c. Light versus dark edge vignettes
- d. Choosing the vignette style
- e. Using the highlights slider
- f. How and when to add film grain

**25. Calibration**

- a. Process version
- b. Stylizing your images
- c. Color adjustments

**26. History**

- a. Undoing more than one step (going back)
- b. Setting which history state to use for "before"
- c. Making a Snapshot of a history state
- d. Snapshots versus Virtual Copies – pros and cons of each
- e. Snapshots for different crop aspect ratios
- f. Snapshot for b/w versus color versions of an image

**27. Batch processing**

- a. Previous button
- b. Copy and pasting settings
- c. Choosing which things to copy
- d. Paste in the Library Module
- e. Sync settings
- f. Auto-sync

**28. Masking**

- a. What is a mask?
- b. Review of global versus local adjustments
- c. How to use each option (select subject, select sky, brush, linear and radial gradients, color range, luminance range)
- d. How to make complex masks
- e. How to copy a mask to another image
- f. How to edit or invert a mask

**29. Merge to Panorama**

- a. How to use it to stitch panoramas
- b. Suggested accessories for this kind of photography
- c. Tips for success shooting and processing panoramas

**30. Merge to HDR**

- a. How to use Merge to HDR in Lightroom
- b. Tips for success shooting and processing HDR images
- c. Links to other resources on this topic

**31. Taking your image to Photoshop**

- a. How to transfer an image to Photoshop (2 options and when to use each)
- b. How to save and send it back to Lightroom
- c. How to find the new image in Lightroom

**32. Using third-party plugins**

- a. How to send an image to a plugin software
- b. How to manage plugins
- c. Some common plugins that other photographers use and what they do
- d. Plugin settings in preferences

**33. Presets**

- a. How to make and save your own develop presets
- b. Importing develop presets
- c. Organizing your presets
- d. Brush and mask presets

**34. Exporting images**

- a. Where to save exported images
- b. Export presets
- c. File naming
- d. File settings and resizing images
- e. Metadata
- f. Adding a watermark

**35. Publish services**

- a. SmugMug
- b. Facebook
- c. Others

**36. Managing catalogs**

- a. Exporting a catalog
- b. Importing a catalog
- c. Merging catalogs
- d. Managing more than one catalog
- e. Moving your catalog
- f. Temporary catalogs
- g. Traveling or using a networked drive

**37. Handling contrast issues**

- a. Walk through a complete edit start to finish of an image with high contrast issues
- b. Walk through a complete edit start to finish of an image with low contrast issues

**38. Handling color issues**

- a. Complete edit of one image to fix color issues

## Other modules

**39. Book module**

- a. How to get an account with Blurb
- b. Why I use and recommend Blurb
- c. How to design a Blurb book
- d. Book settings and options
- e. Auto layout versus customizing your own
- f. Adding text to your book
- g. Using background images
- h. Sending your book to Blurb to order it

**40. Slideshow**



- a. How to create a really simple slideshow
  - b. Customizing it
  - c. Adding music
  - d. Exporting your slideshow
41.      **Print**
- a. Contact sheet versus picture package
  - b. Making a contact sheet
  - c. Making a custom layout
  - d. Using a preset
  - e. Saving a new preset
  - f. Page settings
  - g. Print settings and options
  - h. Monitor calibration
  - i. Soft proofing
42.      **Map**
- a. Adding location metadata
43.      **Web**
- a. Making a web gallery
  - b. What is an FTP server?
  - c. Better options for making yourself an online gallery

## Workflow and extras

44.      **Other things that come with Adobe membership**
- a. Adobe Spark
  - b. Adobe Portfolio
  - c. Stock
45.      **Complete workflow - landscape image**
46.      **Complete workflow - portrait image**
47.      **More learning**
- a. Where to go from here
  - b. The Facebook group for Lightroom students
  - c. The DPM main Facebook group

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