



# 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. Show the lower filter bar too for a shortcut option

## 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

## **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. why I recommend NOT to use these files
- g. How to add metadata or edit it

## **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. Go over each setting at the top of the screen(add, move, copy, copy as DNG - when to use each)
- f. Go over each option on the right 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 an image (3 methods)
- b. Aspect ratio
- c. 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. Masking**

- a. What is a mask?
- b. Review of local versus global edits
- 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

## **18. 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)

## **19. Tone Curve**

- a. Overview of how it works
- b. Making an "S-curve"
- c. Using curves for tonal adjustments
- d. Using curves for color adjustments and stylization

## **20. HSL**

- a. Why this is such a useful tool

- b. How and when to use it
- c. How to use the targeted adjustment tool

**21. 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

**22. Color Grading**

- a. How and when to use this tool
- b. What you can do with it

**23. Detail**

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

**24. 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

**25. 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 to add film grain

**26. Calibration**

- a. Process version
- b. Color adjustments

**27. Presets**

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

**28. Batch processing**

- a. Copy and pasting settings

- b. Previous button
- c. Sync settings
- d. Import presets

**29. Merge to HDR**

- a. Tips for success
- b. How to use it

**30. Merge to Panorama**

- a. How to use it
- b. Tips for success

**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. History**

- a. Undoing more than one step (going back)
- b. Setting the history state for "before"

**34. Using snapshots**

- a. Snapshots versus virtual copies
- b. Snapshot of a history state
- c. Snapshots for different crop aspect ratios
- d. Snapshot for b/w versus color versions of an image

**35. 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

**36. Publish services**

- a. SmugMug
- b. Facebook

- c. Others

**37. Managing catalogs**

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

## Other modules

**38. 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

**39. Slideshow**

- a. How to create a really simple slideshow
- b. Customizing it
- c. Adding music
- d. Exporting your slideshow

**40. 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

**41. Map**

- a. Adding location metadata

**42. Web**

- a. Making a web gallery
- b. What is an FTP server?

- c. Better options for making yourself an online gallery

## Workflow and extras

**43. Other things that come with Adobe membership**

- a. Adobe Spark
- b. Portfolio
- c. Stock

**44. 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

**45. Handling color issues**

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

**46. Complete workflow - landscape image**

- a. Complete edit of one landscape image

**47. Complete workflow - portrait image**

- a. Complete edit of one portrait image

**48. Complete workflow - HDR image**

- a. Complete edit of one HDR set of images (sample images provided for you to use and follow along)

**49. Complete workflow - panorama image**

- a. Complete edit of one panorama set of images (sample images provided for you to use and follow along)

**50. More learning**

- a. Where to go from here
- b. The Facebook group for Lightroom students
- c. The DPM main Facebook group

Get the Lightroom course now, just [CLICK HERE!](#)

