

The Learning Curve

Finding the course that works for you

Types of Teachers

1. **Professional Photographers and Videographers:** Good for those who already know the language and specific terms and can go at a faster pace. Many assume knowledge and skip steps that an intermediate or beginning student may need.
2. **Professional Teachers:** Know the subject and how to teach students at many levels. Teaching is an art in itself. Best for beginner or self-taught students without a comprehensive base of knowledge.

The Importance of Language

- Photography and videography are a combination of science and art. Specific terms mean specific concepts.
- Literacy in the technical and artistic language is critical and a step often skipped. Time spent here is priceless and more advanced users need to be patient in a mixed ability class.
- Literacy in technical process flow is critical, especially in videography. Only practice, practice, practice with the freedom to make mistakes and learn from them will pay off in the long run.

Learning Alone, One-on-One, and in Groups

- **Alone:** Online classes allow you to repeat difficult concepts, go at your own pace, finish a course and go back to it. Sometimes you will get the benefit of practice files and teacher feedback. Need a good work ethic.
- **One-on-One:** Optimal instruction with a trained teacher, hard to find for a full course \$\$\$, but often used to focus on an aspect like “Using Masks in Photoshop” or “Shooting in Manual”.
- **Group with a Teacher:** Depends on the teacher and the group. Can be shared ignorance and partial information or a wonderful experience of hands-on learning.
- **Groups without a Teacher:** Depends on the group. If they want just intermediate and experienced photographers, they should say so. If they plan ahead on how to deal with beginners, they should assign an intermediate+ mentor/partner for best results.

Formal Courses

- Sierra Community College
- <https://www.sierracollege.edu>
- \$46 a unit. Online registration.
- Curriculum developed at the state level to prepare students for professions. Thorough coverage of the subject.
- Courses can be audited.



Short Informal Courses

- Sierra College Field Workshops (4 weeks): Outdoor Portrait, Cityscape, Landscape, Color Nature, Photojournalism, Night Photography, Pinhole, Documentary, Autobiographical
- Action Camera: Specific Camera Systems, Studio, Theme Related Field Trips
<https://www.actioncamera.com/classes>



Online Education

- Camera Manufacturers: Basic operation of cameras. Free. (Not always beginner friendly due to assumptions made by presenter.) Nikon:<https://www.nikonusa.com/en/learn-and-explore/videos.page>
- Software Developers: Basic operation and update instruction. Free. (Not always beginner friendly due to assumptions made by presenter.) Adobe <https://helpx.adobe.com/creative-cloud/tutorials-photography-jumpstart.html>
- YouTube: Many courses of varying quality for free. Be specific in your search and then explore.
- You can stream these classes on phones, tablets, and TV.

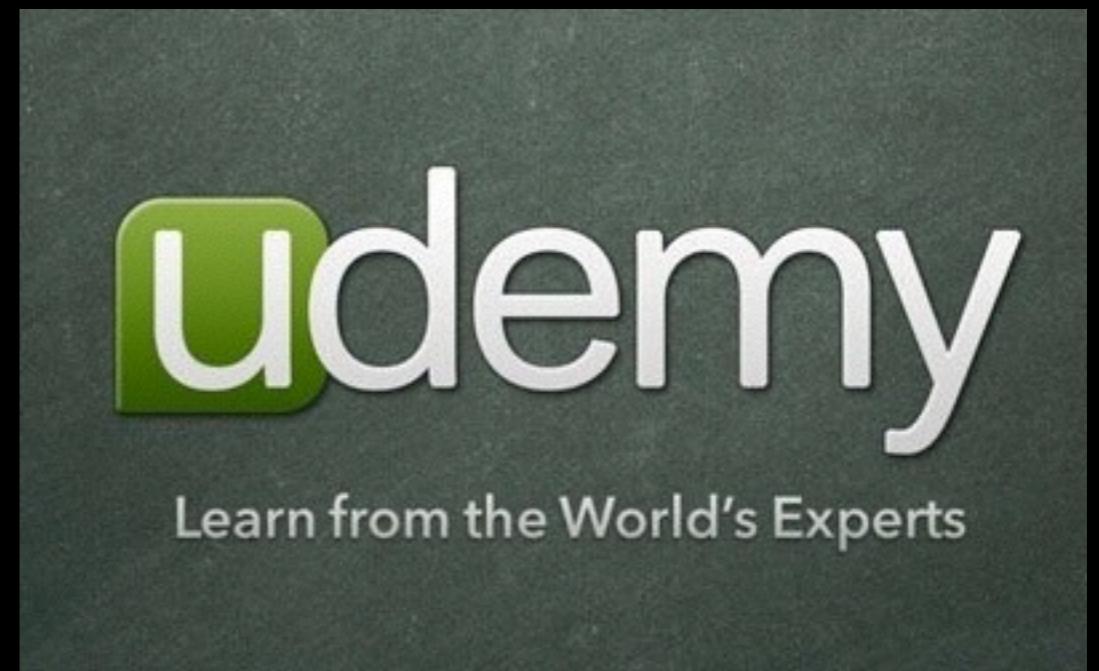
lynda.com



- Unlimited learning from over 6,259 courses
- Free trial for 30 days, the \$20/month for Basic and \$30.00 for Premium (sample project files to download and use during the course).
- Pace yourself, repeat sections or courses if necessary, take progress quizzes, work offline.

udemy.com

- Classes taught by professionals in photography, videography, marketing, etc.
- Wide variety, go at your own pace.
- If you take the course during a presentation period, you may get feedback on your own work if you submit it.
- Get on the email list first and you will get excellent discounts.



CreativeLive.com

- Classes taught by international photography and videography professionals.
- If you take it when the classes are in session you may get feedback on your own work.
- Wide variety, work at your own pace.
- Get on the email list first for great discounts.



Other Opportunities

- The Great Courses: National Geographic Photographers [https://
www.thegreatcourses.com/partners/national-geographic](https://www.thegreatcourses.com/partners/national-geographic)
- Master Class: <https://www.masterclass.com>