

SPPC SUBJECT NOTES 2025-26

Patterns in Nature

“Patterns in nature” refer to recurring, ordered arrangements of shapes, lines, colors, or textures found in the natural world. These patterns can be simple repetitions or more complex structures, and they often reveal underlying mathematical or biological principles. Capturing these patterns can add visual interest, guide the viewer's eye, and evoke a sense of harmony or intrigue in a photograph

Examples of patterns in nature that are visually striking and can be captured in photography include:

- **Symmetry:** Radial symmetry (like in a sunflower) or bilateral symmetry (like a butterfly's wings).
- **Spirals:** Found in seashells, galaxies, and some plant arrangements.
- **Meanders:** Winding river paths or the flow of lava.
- **Waves:** Ripples in sand or water.
- **Foams:** Soap bubbles or the structure of honeycombs.
- **Tessellations:** Repeating tile-like patterns, such as in some rock formations or insect exoskeletons.
- **Fractals:** Self-similar patterns like the branches of a tree or the veins of a leaf.
- **Stripes:** Zebra stripes, tree bark patterns, or the markings on some animals.

Natural Beauty

"Natural beauty" refers to capturing subjects, whether people or landscapes, in their unenhanced, authentic state. It emphasizes capturing the subject's inherent qualities without artificial manipulation or posing, focusing on genuine moments and expressions.

Key Aspects:

- **Outdoor Focus:**

Nature photography is primarily an outdoor activity, capturing images in natural environments.

- **Natural Elements:**

The core subjects of nature photography are natural elements like landscapes, wildlife, plants, and geological formations.

- **Aesthetic Emphasis:**

Nature photography often prioritizes the artistic and aesthetic value of the images, aiming to evoke a sense of beauty and wonder.

- **Variety of Subjects:**

It includes diverse subjects, from wide-angle landscapes to close-up shots of flowers or insects.

- **No Manipulation (Generally):**

While some editing is common, nature photography often strives to depict subjects as they appear in nature, minimizing artificial manipulation.

Funny /Humorous/Comical

“Humour” is a difficult element to add into photography because it can often come across as forced or contrived. The best examples of humour in photography have an element of spontaneity and a natural touch to them.

The suggestion is to Google this topic to appreciate how this topic is achieved by different professional photographers.

Funny moments are often unfiltered and can be found in busy places. This is a great opportunity for candid photography. You can practice using your camera in an ever-changing environment.

Some of the best places to start are busy streets, nature, and fun events. Look for places where you can find a variety of animals. Their funny expressions make for fantastic photos.

You’ll have to be patient and observant to find humorous moments. Make sure you stand in places where humour isn’t uncommon. These include parties, a places where animals tend to play, and so on.

Abandoned Places

“Abandoned Places” refer to locations, typically man-made structures, that have been deserted and left to decay. These places, often found in urban environments, are the focus of a photography subgenre called urban exploration (urbex) photography. Urbex

photography aims to document and capture the beauty and stories of these forgotten spaces, exploring themes of decay, history, and the passage of time.

Key aspects:

- **Urban Exploration (Urbex):**

This is the practice of exploring and photographing abandoned or rarely accessed locations, often involving trespassing and facing potential safety hazards.

- **Architectural Decay:**

Urbex photography frequently features dilapidated buildings, factories, and other structures that showcase the effects of time and neglect, such as peeling paint, rusted metal, and broken windows.

- **Historical Context:**

Many abandoned places hold historical significance, offering a glimpse into past industries, communities, or events. Urbex photographers often research the history of these locations and incorporate it into their work.

- **Storytelling:**

Abandoned places can be powerful subjects for storytelling, evoking emotions of nostalgia, mystery, and the transience of human endeavours.

- **Safety and Legality:**

Urbex photography often involves navigating potentially dangerous environments and trespassing on private property, raising ethical and legal considerations for photographers.

In essence, abandoned places in photography offer a unique perspective on the urban landscape, inviting viewers to contemplate the passage of time, the impact of human activity, and the beauty that can be found in decay

Face to Face /People

“Face-to-face” photography, within the broader field of portrait photography, refers to a style where the subject is directly facing the camera, often with a focus on their facial expressions and personality. It's a technique used to capture the essence and emotion of the individual, going beyond a simple likeness to reveal something about their character or inner state

Key Aspects:

- **Direct Engagement:**

The subject looks directly at the camera, creating a sense of connection with the viewer.

- **Focus on Face:**

While the background and body can be included, the primary focus is on the subject's face, including their expressions and features.

- **Personality and Emotion:**

The goal is to capture not just a physical likeness but also the subject's personality, emotions, and inner world.

- **Variety of Styles:**

Face-to-face portraits can be formal or casual, depending on the desired effect and the photographer's style.

- **Technical Considerations:**

Photographers use techniques like lighting, posing, and composition to enhance the subject's features and create a compelling image.

Minimalism

“Minimalist” photography is a style that emphasizes simplicity and the use of minimal elements to create visually striking and impactful images. It focuses on clean lines, negative space, and a limited colour palette, aiming to convey a sense of calmness and order. By stripping away distractions and focusing on essential elements, minimalist photography encourages viewers to engage with the subject and appreciate the beauty of simplicity.

Key characteristics of minimalist photography:

- **Emphasis on simplicity:**

Minimalist photography strives to reduce the visual clutter and complexity of a scene, focusing on the most essential elements.

- **Negative space:**

A significant aspect of minimalist photography is the use of negative space, which is the empty area around the subject. This helps to isolate the subject and draw the viewer's attention to it.

- **Clean lines and shapes:**

Minimalist images often feature clean lines and geometric shapes, contributing to the overall sense of order and clarity.

- **Limited colour palette:**

Minimalist photography typically utilizes a restricted colour range, often focusing on neutral tones or a few complementary colours.

- **Strong composition:**

Careful composition is crucial in minimalist photography, as the placement of elements within the frame is carefully considered to create a balanced and visually appealing image.

- **Focus on the subject:**

While minimalism emphasizes simplicity, it also highlights a specific subject or idea, often by isolating it from its surroundings.

- **Evokes emotion:**

By focusing on essential elements and clean compositions, minimalist photography aims to evoke specific emotions or a sense of calmness and peace.

- **In essence, minimalist photography is about:**

- Finding beauty in simplicity: Discovering the aesthetic appeal of simple forms, lines, and spaces.
- Conveying a clear message: Using minimal elements to communicate a specific idea or feeling.
- Creating visually impactful images: Achieving strong visual impact through careful composition and the strategic use of negative space.
- Minimalist photography can be applied to various genres, including landscapes, portraits, and still life. It's a style that encourages photographers to see the world in a more focused and deliberate way, finding beauty in the less-is-more approach.

Bridges

A "Bridge photo" could simply be a picture of a bridge, a common subject for photographers.

Photographs of Bridges can be:

- **Architectural subject:**

Bridges are a popular subject for photographers due to their interesting shapes, lines, and structures, often offering unique perspectives.

- **Symbolism:**

Bridges can also carry symbolic meaning, representing connections, transitions, or journeys.

- **Landscapes:**

Bridges often play a role in landscape photography, providing a focal point or a visual element within a larger scene.

Photographs of bridges can be captured in various styles, from wide-angle shots showcasing the entire structure to close-ups highlighting details like the architecture or the materials used.

Action/Sport

“Action or Sports” photography is a genre focused on capturing the energy and excitement of dynamic, fast-paced events, often involving athletes or other subjects in motion. It requires a keen eye for timing, a strong understanding of composition, and the ability to anticipate and react to the action as it unfolds.

Key Aspects:

- **Movement and Action:**

The core of action/sports photography lies in capturing subjects in motion, whether it's a football player leaping for a catch, a skateboarder performing a trick, or a car speeding around a racetrack.

- **Timing and Anticipation:**

Success in this genre often hinges on the photographer's ability to predict the action and capture the decisive moment, often requiring quick reflexes and a deep understanding of the sport or activity.

- **Technical Skills:**

Freezing motion requires specific camera settings, such as fast shutter speeds, and may involve techniques like continuous shooting (burst mode) to increase the chances of capturing the perfect shot.

- **Composition:**

While action-packed, the best sports photos often incorporate strong composition techniques, such as the rule of thirds and leading lines, to guide the viewer's eye and create a visually appealing image.

- **Storytelling:**

Sports photography goes beyond simply documenting the action; it can also tell a story, conveying the drama, emotion, and atmosphere of the event.

For example

- **Sports:**

Capturing the intensity of a soccer match, the speed of a race car, or the grace of a gymnast in action.

- **Action:**

Documenting wildlife in their natural habitats, capturing the thrill of a motorcycle jump, or freezing a dancer mid-leap