

# HDR Photography Assignment

Advanced Photography  
Mr. Weisbrod

**Objective:** For this project, you will learn how to take multiple exposures of a single scene and then merge those images together into a single photograph, utilizing the best exposed portion of each shot, to create an image that has a much higher dynamic range than you could capture with a single exposure.

## Your success on this assignment will depend on several factors:

- Your ability to find a subject that will look good. One that has a high contrast ratio, with tough lighting and dramatic colors.
- Your ability to frame the subject, and then take 6 quick successive exposures so that all the frames match up well.
- Your ability to understand and utilize the post-processing methods to squeeze every last bit of color, contrast, and detail out of your final image.

## Procedure:

- 1) Start by thinking and exploring ideas for what kind of subject you want to photograph. Remember, putting people in the foreground is a bad idea. In fact, anything that moves a lot in the foreground is a bad idea. If there are people further away in the background, they won't matter as much, because we can get rid of them, or choose which exposure suits them best, since they'll be small. Also avoid trees that wave in the wind, etc.
- 2) If you're shooting a building, often the best time to photograph (and the most dramatic results achieved) is around dusk, just a short time after the sun has gone over the horizon. That is how you get those vibrant blues – and sometimes even deep purples – in the sky. But set up early and be ready to photograph fast. The light changes very rapidly at the time of day, so you won't have long to mess around before it's gone and you've got very little in the way of a nice dramatic sky.
- 3) Figure out on your camera how to do multiple exposures rapidly. Practice this multiple times before you actually go out to shoot the final images. There may be a "auto-bracketing" feature on your camera, which can help a bit (but it usually only does 3 images, and we need 6), but if not, you'll need to practice changing the exposure **without** taking the camera away from your eye (assuming you are not using a tripod).
- 4) If you are using a tripod, play with it first and figure out how to set it up **before** you attach a camera to it. Tripods are great, but setting one up can be tricky if you've never done it before, and your camera can be damaged *very badly* if the tripod tips over with the camera attached!
- 5) **Shoot a ton of images.** Move the camera slightly to change composition with each setup, and then shoot 6 more exposures. Repeat this process again and again. The more you shoot, the better you increase your chances of having useful images. **You will need to photograph a minimum of 160 images.**
- 6) Review your images carefully after shooting each set of 6 – use the "magnify" feature to zoom in on the image and make sure it's not blurry, and then everything looks okay before moving on to the next set of shots.

