



## “WHAT CAMERA SHOULD I BE USING?”

Here's what you need to know about what kind of camera will work best most introductory photography classes. These are only general guidelines, and this assumes that your camera will have the capability to take high-quality images. For many of you, that means 10 mega pixel and up.

- An **SLR/D-SLR** ("single reflex lens") with **manual/adjustable focus** if possible
- **Adjustable Aperture** (f-stops)
- **Adjustable Shutter Speed**
- **ISO/ASA control**
- **White Balance** capabilities

**No matter what you chose, make sure what ever you use has manual settings available. *The only thing that really won't work well for class assignments is a fully automatic point and shoot with low mega pixels—that includes cell phones.***

And remember, it's a poor player who blames their instrument. You don't need a top of the line camera, but you do need one that takes photographs **in focus** and with the ability to stop motion without blur. Don't use a disposable digital camera, but don't run out and buy a thousand dollar camera if you are only taking one photography class!

### **Common entry-level D-SLR cameras**

**Nikon** and **Canon** have become American favorites, and are the two most common camera types in the US. *This makes it easier to find lenses, find accessories, repair and return cameras in the Nikon and Canon families.* While it's tempting to buy a “top of the line” camera, I advise that beginners find a family of cameras with which they feel comfortable—this will allow you build a collection, and to upgrade camera bodies and buy accessories (like lenses and flashes) that will work with multiple camera bodies, so long as they are compatible. Most starter kits come with an 18-55mm lens. This is very adequate, and is a work-horse lens used in a wide variety of situations. If a beginner chooses to buy additional lenses, keep in mind their purpose. Short lenses cause wide angle distortion. Long lenses are great for distance, but can be problematic in situations where the distance to the subject changes drastically. Sometimes entry-level D-SLR cameras are known as “prosumer” cameras. Do not let this deter you. The title, while condescending, is an indication of the ubiquity of digital imaging in modern media consumption and creation. *Suggested cameras include:*

**Canon EOS Rebel** line, including SL1, T5, T5i, T6i etc

Canon EOS (higher end) and Rebel (lower end) cameras used to be distinct from each other, but as Canon evolved from film to digital, the two names have merged, and the quality of entry level SLR cameras has improved vastly. Older variations of this family (T3i, for example) are also reliable and capable.

**Nikon D** 3100, 3200, 3300, 5100, 5300, 5500 etc

In the Nikon family of cameras, we look at the first numeral (typically a “3” or a “5”) and that it numbers in the thousands. This is the naming convention for entry level D-SLR cameras in the Nikon line. These cameras are comparable to the Canon EOS Rebel, and also are praised for their sensitivity in low lighting situations.

***Don't be afraid to buy refurbished or used equipment, especially if it comes with a warrantee!***