

Introduction to the Digital Camera

Materials:

Materials will be discussed in class for each project. Please bring your camera, memory card, manual, card reader, flash drive, and tripod (we will try to shoot outside as much as possible) to each class.

Digital Camera: SLR, point and shoot, or any digital camera with aperture and shutter speed controls.

Extra Memory Cards and Batteries: It will save you from that moment when you've composed the perfect picture and your camera shuts off or blinks "card full".

- I recommend at least a 2 GB memory card.

Card Reader: This is a faster way to get your pictures off your camera without using up all your camera's battery.

- Make sure your card reader works with the type of card that your camera uses. If you take your camera and card with you to the store- you should be able to find what you're looking for.
- I use Lexar and Sandisk brands, but there are many other brands out there.
- If you use more than one camera in your household, you can also find card readers with multiple slots for different size memory cards.
- I recommend a card reader with a Firewire cable which is faster than USB(check to make sure it is compatible with your home PC). Or buy a card reader compatible with both Firewire/USB.

Electronic Storage: Flash drive or portable hard drive. You can store files on the computers here just for transfers, but you will need to back it up.

- I recommend at least a 4GB flash drive- Lexar or Sandisk brand.
- I do not recommend CD-Rs to store files.

Tripod: An essential for taking photographs at slow shutter speeds, at night, or for macro photography. You can find many that are light and travel well.

- Make sure you select a tripod with levels to ensure your camera is straight and that you can stand while using it, not a tabletop tripod.
- I highly recommend that you try out tripods at a photo supply store because every make/model is different.
- You can also check out a monopod (www.bhphotovideo.com) or Gorillapod (available at www.joby.com).

Spiral notebook/3-ring binder: You will be taking notes in class and when you are out in the field.

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Later in Class...

Digital White Balance Card/Filter: Great for easy color balancing and tonal correction. Some fold up to fit in your camera bag, or fit over your lens.

- Lastolite makes a great grey/white collapsible card for \$29.50 (www.bhphotovideo.com).
- Expodisc makes a white balance filter for around \$80.

Digital Printing Paper: There are many brands, surfaces, sizes, etc.- we'll discuss surfaces, sizes and outsourcing further in class.

Local Suppliers for Photo Equipment:

Helix

223 Skokie Valley Rd
Highland Park, IL 60035
Tel: (847) 831-1000

310 S. Racine
Chicago, IL 60607
Tel: (312) 421-6000
www.helixcamera.com

Wolf Camera

616 Davis Street
Evanston, IL 60201
Tel: (847) 328-0111
www.wolfcamera.com

Calumet

1111 N Cherry Ave.
Chicago, IL 60622
Tel: (312) 440-4920
www.calumetphoto.com

Best Buy, RadioShack, Target, or other electronic stores will also carry some supplies.

Many supplies can be found online at:

B&H www.bhphotovideo.com