

# CHOOSING A CAMERA

*"Spending more money on camera gear will not necessarily help you in creating better photos. However, it will not make you a better photographer."*

## IN A NUT SHELL

If you have the money, get an SLR or MIL, not a point-and-shoot (micro-four-thirds is fine)

- larger sensor = less noise, especially in low light
- larger aperture = more control over depth of field

## Don't Worry About

- megapixels - most cameras have too many
- brand - any major brand is good enough
- body - inexpensive ones are fine (and lighter)

## Worry About Lenses

- variable-zooms are convenient but the quality varies
- avoid large focal ranges (18-250mm) - they're often "soft"
- maximum aperture (lowest f/stop) matters

## EXTRA GOODIES

Extra goodies

- 1) 50mm f/1.8 "fast" "prime" lens for low-light work
  - 2) tripod
    - sturdy is good, but heavy to carry
    - look at mini-tripods, flexible tripods, etc.
  - 3) flash
    - external flash aimed at ceiling takes much better pictures than a built-in flash aimed at the subject
  - 3) video capability
- \*count on  $\geq$  \$500 for SLR + standard zoom + tripod

For Photo 1 students there are Nikon Coolpix S7000 available for check out for your photo projects outside of class. These cameras are available for checkout from Mon-Thurs or Friday-Mon and must be returned after the 3 night window. These cameras are marked with asset tags and will be scanned at checkout time as well as being checked for charged batteries, an inserted memory card and working functions. You are responsible for returning these cameras on time and in the same condition as check out or fees will be applied. Although we have many cameras for check out we have twice as many Photo students so plan your projects ahead. If you truly love photography and want to have the ease of using your own camera at any time please see the PROs and CONs of each camera type and featured suggestions.

## ENTRY LEVEL EXAMPLES

MIL



SONY Alpha A5000  
Mirrorless Digital  
Camera with  
16-50mm Lens  
\$379.00

DSLR



Canon EOS Rebel T6  
DSLR Camera with  
18-55mm Lens  
\$449.00

**Don't be afraid to buy a used camera from eBay!**

Places to find cameras..

ONLINE

B&H.com, Amazon.com,  
Target.com (Use a coupon)

IN-STORE

Best Buy (They match prices)

PREFERRED

## DSLR: Digital Single Lens Reflex

*(For the serious photographer with interchangeable lens, manual controls, beautiful results)*

### PROS:

- Quick Start Time
- Clearer/Quality Photos
- Faster Focusing and Shutter
- Manual Overrides
- Continuous Shooting
- Low Noise
- Choice of Lens

### CONS:

- Weight
- Size
- Learning Curve
- Large Range of Choices

## MIL: Mirrorless Interchangeable Lens

*(Manual Controls, Some Interchangeable Lens, Light Weight)*

### PROS:

- Smaller
- Lighter
- Cheaper than DSLR
- Live View System
- Large Image Sensor
- Manual Controls

### CONS:

- Slow Autofocus
- Limited Lens
- Battery Life
- Lack of Features compared to DSLR

MAKE USE OF IT IF YOU ALREADY HAVE ONE

## FIXED LENS: Point & Shoot

*(On there way out)*

### PROS:

- Size and Weight
- Price
- Noise
- Ease of Use

### CONS:

- Image Quality
- Flexibility/No Changable Lens
- No Manual Controls
- Speed/Shutter Lag
- Lack of Real Viewfinder

## SMARTPHONES

*(Catching up with Point & Shoot)*

### PROS:

- Convenient
- Detail
- Software
- Connectivity

### CONS:

- No Zoom
- Awful Flash
- Slow Speed
- Limited or Difficult Controls
- No Background Blur
- More Noise/Smaller Pixels
- Most are bad in Low Light

*Great Choices=iPhone7s, Samsung Galaxy S8+ & Google Pixel*

In Photo 1 we will focus on taking better pictures, so make use of P&S and Smartphones if you already have one, in the classroom studios we will be utilizing better cameras and equipment to improve the quality of the image. When purchasing your own camera ask the following...

*What is your budget? Prepare to spend 500+ for a quality camera investment*

*What are your interest and goals with photography? Hobbyist, Enthusiast, Aspiring Professional*

*What is your photographic specialty? Portraits, Landscape, Sports... this matters!*

Check out Tony Northrup and his very specific reviews before you buy! <https://northrup.photo/reviews/>

I personally prefer Canon DSLR to Nikon because Canon has a wider and cheaper variety of lens, while Nikon has a better body, however their lens don't compete to Canon. What do I use? I started off with a Canon DSLR T3i and recently traded in for a Canon 70D for the video features.