

Camera recommendations FILM CAMERA:

Students need to have a 35 mm SLR (Single Lens Reflex) film camera with manual controls for shutter speed and aperture settings---NOT an APS or a digital camera for this beginning photography class. Canon, Minolta, Pentax and, of course, Nikon make wonderful 35 mm SLR cameras. Having automatic features like auto focus and a built-in flash and programmed metering are helpful additions but not required. Any of the above-mentioned brands have a range of camera options. Try asking friends, relatives and neighbors to see if they have a 35mm film camera sitting in a closet that they don't use any more. Put a new battery in and if the light meter works it may be ideal for this class!

Cost is often an issue so I recommend that students consider buying used equipment. Check the *Ebay.com*, *Craigslistchicago.com* and the *Trading Times*, and *www.keh.com*. Google refurbished Nikon or Canon film camera. The Nikon FM-10 is an all-manual camera and an ideal choice. Several camera stores sell used equipment, Dodd Camera, Helix, Central Camera and others. Particular camera models offer different or additional bells and whistles which are more desirable to student who fall more in love with photography and really want to learn about creative controls. These are not required for learning the basics of camera functions.

If buying a new camera, I recommend that student consider purchasing a zoom lens 28-80 or 28-200. This allow for making a wider range of photos. 28mm is ideal for landscape pictures and team photos or group shots. A 90mm lens is an ideal setting for portraits, 200mm is a telephoto lens ideal for sports or more detailed shots of animals...some telephoto lens can also enable student to do macro shots that means very close -up images. Tamron and Sigma have lens that offer a 28mm-300mm. Keep in mind that the filters for this lens are costly as this is a large lens. Fix focal length lens are usually higher quality lens. Many students start out with a 50mm lens and this will be just fine! This is all a beginning photographer really needs. There are many wonderful zoom lenses on the market, which are designed to fit whatever camera body you purchase. I recommend the following brands in addition the ones made by the camera companies. Tamron, Sigma, Vivitar. There are plastic lens and aspherical lens. The aspherical are higher quality lens. Some extra features that an advance student in photography is interested in are- *Does this camera allow for double exposure? Does the shutter button have a thread for a cable release? Can longer exposure be made? Can this camera create a thirty-second exposure on longer?*

Be sure to have a new battery and to get a skylight filter to protect the lens. Forget about a camera bag. Most students have a backpack they can use (often the case just gets in the way). Also, as a beginner, consider purchasing a totally manual camera as this way you will be forced to learn about the basic camera controls and will not be able to rely on the automatic features. Again, the Nikon FM-10 is an all-manual camera and an ideal choice.

I am particular to Nikon cameras. Traditionally more professional photographers than any other brand have used them. The Nikon 6006, N65, and N75 are wonderful cameras that also feature auto focus, a built-in flash, and automatic as well as manual controls. These are great intro cameras. A Nikon F10 is a wonderful all manual camera but having auto focus and a built-in flash can often provide additional features that some students appreciate. **Nikon N80 is one of the cameras I have and highly recommend.** It is a very sophisticated camera and all you should ever need in a film camera. It allows for multiple exposures and several special techniques. It is lightweight and versatile. I also have used a Tamron and a Sigma 28-300 mm lens. It was all I ever need. What is great about buying this equipment is that this lens and other Nikon auto focus lens will also work on a Nikon digital SLR should you eventually decide to buy one. * There is a new lens that I just purchased by Nikon that is an 18-200MM with VR vibration reduction. This lens only costs \$799 it is designed for Nikon Digital Cameras, like the NikonD50, Nikon D70, Nikon D80, D200, D300, D5000, D500 one of Nikon's newest digital camera which if you continue in photography and maybe an excellent choice for an advanced photography student. The Sigma 18-200mm lens is a great and a more affordable choice. Also check out the Canon Rebel GII Camera with lens from www.Amazon.com. However, keep in mind that **THIS CLASS DOES NOT USE DIGITAL CAMERAS.**

Be sure to get extra batteries and consider buying a skylight or UV filter to protect the lens. A polarizing filter is great for color photography but be certain if you have an auto focus lens to choose a circular polarizing filter. We will not be shooting color in this beginning class so you can hold off on this. New less expensive great beginning cameras with metering, options, auto focus and a built-in flash on the market are by Pentax a ZX50 and a ZX30 (\$194) are possible models and are several other Pentax models...consider a Pentax body with a Tamron lens...The least expensive very basic all manual new camera is the Pentax zx-m (body only about \$150) with 50mm lens \$200ish) **Don't forget the batteries and a skylight filter to fit the lens that you do get!** Canon Rebel 2000 is also very good.

I have also been shopping on the Internet at Amazon, Freestyle photo, and B & H photography. These are great places to look also EBay, Yahoo and even Facebook Marketplace are other options for your consideration. You can really get a great deal on a used camera on the Internet. I have also purchased from Central Camera 230 S. Wabash 312-427-5580, and also at International Camera Repair 9 N. Wabash, 312-630-1017. This is where I get cameras repaired. Betty Lark Ross brross@latinschool.org Visual Art Department Chair & Photography Teacher, 312-582-6332 *I have a few cameras that I can check out to students who are on financial assistance. Email me for this offer.*