



Recommendations for Purchasing a Camera.

I maintain a policy of not recommending any particular brand of camera because the brand that I like and works for me may not suit someone else. I will, however, recommend that you stay with the major brands such as Canon, Nikon, Minolta, Olympus, Ricoh, Contax, etc. and purchase one that has the capability of changing lenses (called single-lens Reflex or SLR).

The most important feature is the ability to set **EXPOSURE** manually as well as automatically. There is a tendency for people to lean towards automatic exposure cameras. While this is a great feature for the amateur, it hinders the photographer who wants to be creative and expand his or her horizons to make photographs instead of simply taking pictures. There is a world of difference between the two. Please don't confuse automatic Exposure with Automatic Focus. In the past, a couple of students have stated that they want "a camera that can be put on manual as well as automatic", and the store sold them one that could be put on manual or automatic FOCUS. That is important too, but the critical feature is the ability to set EXPOSURE manually or automatically.

The next consideration is which media you wish to use. You could put a considerable amount of money into a film camera only to realize later that you wish you had gone digital or vice versa. My course teaches Photography, which serves for both film and digital cameras. In the last part of the course we concentrate more on the digital media as this is the direction in which the industry and the craft are going. We finish the program with a three day digital photo lab in which we learn to enhance and manipulate images. Some students with film cameras purchase or borrow a digital camera for the last part of the program while others purchase a digital camera outright because that is the medium they choose to use. If you want to stick with a film camera, then the images can be scanned and placed on a CD and you can use these for digital photo lab.

Do some thinking before you make your choice.

As far as accessories, I would advise you wait until the second class. Then we cover accessories that are necessary and those that are just fun to have. When I first began in photography I wanted every accessory I saw and as a result I have many that in 27 years I have never used or have used perhaps once or twice.

I hope this helps. I look forward to seeing you in class.

John Pearrow
Instructor, MTC
Photography Certificate Program