Choosing a camera

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Having an SLR is neither necessary nor sufficient for taking good photographs.
unretouched pictures from Nokia N95
(5 megapixels, Zeiss lens, auto-focus)
Choosing a camera

✧ if you have the money, get an SLR, not a point-and-shoot
   • 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 “soft”
   • maximum aperture (lowest f/stop) matters

• for this course, need manual control over shutter and aperture
Extra goodies

- 50mm f/1.8 “fast” “prime” lens for low-light work
- tripod
  - sturdy is good, but heavy to carry
  - look at mini-tripods, flexible tripods, etc.
- flash
  - external flash aimed at ceiling takes much better pictures than a built-in flash aimed at the subject
- count on ≥ $500 for SLR + standard zoom + tripod
- CS 178 loaner cameras are
  - Canon A590 point-and-shoot (takes surprisingly good pictures!)
  - Nikon D40 with 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 (28-88mm equivalent)