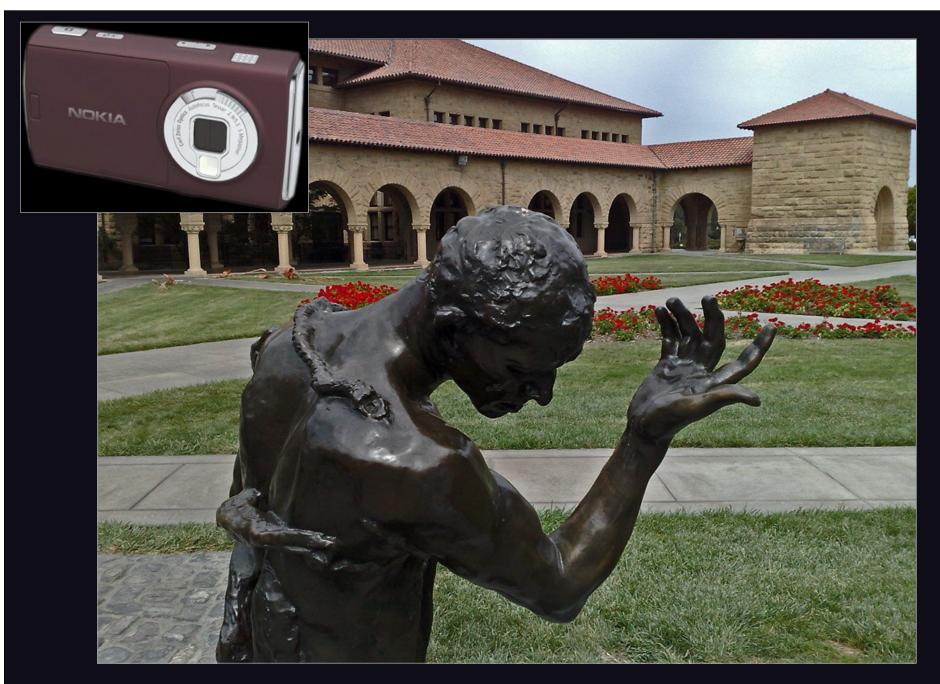
Choosing a camera

CS 178, Spring 2012



As I mentioned in class, please direct questions about buying cameras for this course to the TAs rather than me (Marc), or feel free to post them on our online forum, <u>http://piazza.com/class#spring2012/cs178</u> If I have time, I'll join the discussion.

Marc Levoy Computer Science Department Stanford University Having an SLR is neither necessary nor sufficient for taking good photographs.



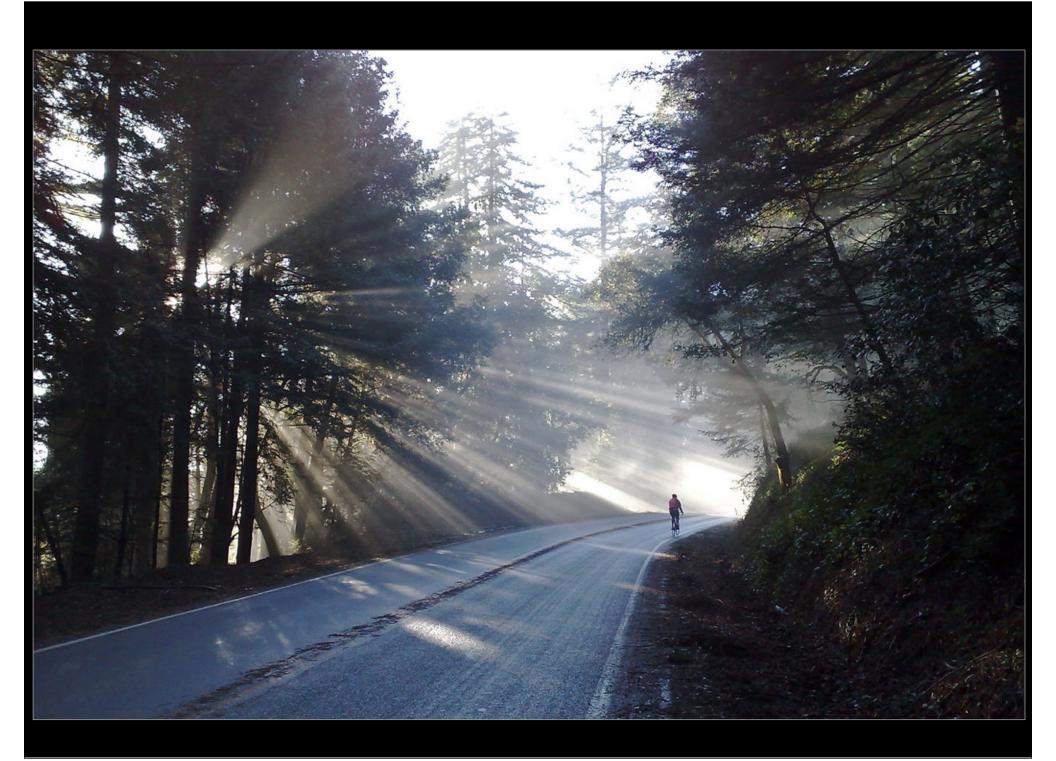
unretouched pictures from Nokia N95 (5 megapixels, Zeiss lens, auto-focus)











Choosing a camera

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

- if you have the money, get an SLR,
 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 "soft"
 - maximum aperture (lowest f/stop) matters

Extra goodies

- tripod
 - sturdy is good, but heavy to carry
 - look at mini-tripods, flexible tripods, etc.
- flash

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- external flash aimed at ceiling takes <u>much</u> better pictures than a built-in flash aimed at the subject
- video capability
- ← count on ≥ \$500 for SLR + standard zoom + tripod
- ✤ CS 178 loaner cameras are
 - Canon A590 point-and-shoot (takes surprisingly good pictures!)
 - Nikon D40 (or D3000/3100) with 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 (28-88mm equiv.)

Resources

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http://dpreview.com

Popular interchangeable lens cameras Top 10: Reviews and specs Top 10: Galleries Top 10: Challenges

Cameras and lenses receiving the most views in reviews, previews, news and product database pages in the last 120 hours (5 days). There have been 815,853 views in the last 120 hours.

101	Panasonic Lumix DMC-GH2	16.7%	
<u>to</u>	Nikon D7000	5.4%	
ĨŌ.	Canon EOS 600D (EOS Rebel T3i / EOS Kiss X5)	5.3%	
10	Canon EOS 60D	3.7%	
101	Panasonic Lumix DMC-GF2	3.6%	
	Nikon D3100	3.4%	
10	Canon EOS 550D (EOS Rebel T2i / EOS Kiss X4)	3.4%	
0	Olympus PEN E-PL2	2.8%	—
	Canon EOS 7D	2.3%	_
$\lceil \bigcirc \rceil$	Sony Alpha NEX-3	2.3%	_
-			

Popular compact cameras

Top 10: Reviews and specs Top 10: Galleries Top 10: Challenges

Cameras and lenses receiving the most views in reviews, previews, news and product database pages in the last 120 hours (5 days). There have been 422,866 views in the last 120 hours.

	Olympus XZ-1	6.7%		
10	Canon PowerShot G12	4.9%		
6	Nikon Coolpix P300	4.6%		
	Fujifiim FinePix X100	3.7%		
	Leica X1	1.6%		
1 (1)	Canon PowerShot SD4000 IS (IXUS 300 HS / IXY 30S)	1.5%	_	
	Samsung TL500 (EX1)	1.1%		
6	Canon PowerShot G11	1.0%	_	
10	Nikon Coolpix P7000	0.9%	_	
	Panasonic Lumix DMC-LX3	0.8%	_	
-		-	© Mai	rc Levo

Resources

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- http://dpreview.com
- http://www.the-digital-picture.com
- http://www.steves-digicams.com
- http://www.luminous-landscape.com
- http://www.kenrockwell.com