

## Camera Suggestions for Photo Majors

Mirrorless cameras are replacing DSLR cameras. If I were starting I strongly suggest you choose a mirrorless camera. Sony and Canon are the most popular, but Fuji & Nikon make high quality cameras. DSLR's are good cameras, but the largest manufacturers are Canon and Nikon and they are phasing them out as they move to mirrorless.

Photography students will learn to shoot video. Even if a student plans on concentrating on still images, they will make money in the future doing both stills and video. Mirrorless cameras are superior for photographers shooting both stills and video. I recommend you research the options, read online forums, visit a camera store and try them out, read and watch reviews and video comparisons and discuss any other ideas or options with instructors and fellow classmates. Ask upperclassmen what they have learned. Create a community around your equipment research.

Here's a basic list of suggested cameras. Camera makers upgrade or introduce models continually.

### Minimum Options

#### **Canon EOS Rebel T7 DSLR Camera with 18-55mm Lens \$479**

- 24.1MP APS-C CMOS Sensor
- DIGIC 4+ Image Processor
- 3.0" 920k-Dot LCD Monitor
- Full HD 1080/30p Video Recording
- 9-Point AF with Center Cross-Type Point
- ISO 100-6400, Up to 3 fps Shooting
- Built-In Wi-Fi with NFC
- Scene Intelligent Auto Mode
- Creative Filters and Creative Auto Modes•EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 IS II Lens

#### **Nikon D3500 DSLR Camera with 18-55mm Lens \$649**

- 24.2MP DX-Format CMOS Sensor
- EXPEED 4 Image Processor
- No Optical Low-Pass Filter
- Native ISO 100-25600; 5 fps Shooting•3.0" 921k-Dot LCD Monitor
- Full HD 1080p Video Recording at 60 fps•Multi-CAM 1000 11-Point AF System
- SnapBridge Bluetooth Connectivity

- AF-P DX 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6G VR Lens

NOTE: The 18-55mm Canon/Nikon lenses are not high quality. They are meant for entry-level use only. Students who choose the lowest price option will quickly learn the equipment will not offer the best quality possible. The mid-level option is an improvement in both camera and lens quality.

If you have the entry level Canon or Nikon listed above I highly recommend adding this lens.

### **Canon EF 50mm f/1.4 USM Lens \$340**

- EF-Mount Lens/Full-Frame Format
- Aperture Range: f/1.4 to f/22
- Two High Refractive Index Elements
- Super Spectra Coating
- Micro Ultrasonic Motor AF System
- Rounded 8-Blade Diaphragm

OR

### **Nikon AF-S NIKKOR 50mm f/1.4G Lens \$450**

- F-Mount Lens/FX Format
- Aperture Range: f/1.4 to f/16
- Super Integrated Lens Coating
- Silent Wave Motor AF System
- Rounded 9-Blade Diaphragm

## **Recommended Cameras**

(No Camera Upgrade While in School)

### **Sony Alpha a7 III Mirrorless Digital Camera with FE 24-105mm f/4 G OSS Lens \$3,400**

- 24MP Full-Frame Exmor R BSI CMOS Sensor
- BIONZ X Image Processor & Front-End LSI
- 693-Point Hybrid AF System
- UHD 4K30p Video with HLG & S-Log3 Gammas
- 2.36m-Dot Tru-Finder OLED EVF
- 3.0" 922k-Dot Tilting Touchscreen LCD
- 5-Axis SteadyShot INSIDE Stabilization
- ISO 204800 and 10 fps Shooting
- Built-In Wi-Fi and NFC, Dual SD Slots
- USB Type-C Port, Weather-Sealed Design
- FE 24-105mm f/4 G OSS Lens

### **Canon EOS R6 Mirrorless Digital Camera with 24-105mm f/4L Lens \$3,599**

- 20MP Full-Frame CMOS Sensor

- DIGIC X Image Processor
- 4K60 and FHD 120 10-Bit Internal Video•Sensor-Shift 5-Axis Image Stabilization
- 12 fps Mech. Shutter, 20 fps E. Shutter
- Dual Pixel CMOS AF with 1053 Points
- 3.69m-Dot OLED EVF
- 3.2" Vari-Angle Touchscreen LCD
- Subject Tracking with Deep Learning
- RF 24-105mm f/4L IS USM Lens

## What about Refurbished/Used?

With camera prices starting in the high hundreds, even the least expensive budget model might be beyond the reach of a student on a tight budget. Refurbished equipment can offer a money-saving alternative. Used cameras are either returned cameras that cannot be sold as new, or refurbished by the original manufacturer and are in perfect working order. Some may be older and recently discontinued models but offer plenty of features and more than enough resolution that yield outstanding results. The selection of refurbished cameras is constantly changing.

Canon Refurbished

<https://shop.usa.canon.com/shop/en/catalog/cameras/refurbished-eos-interchangeable-lens-cameras>

Sony Refurbished

I do not see a refurbished company site

Nikon Refurbished

<https://www.nikonusa.com/en/nikon-store/refurbished-cameras.page>

KEH has been in the business of reselling cameras since the 1970's. They offer a 6 month return/replacement guarantee and they also will sell a 2-year warranty for \$99. Most camera repairs start at \$400 so it's a good insurance policy if the used camera you purchase develops a significant problem. Here is a site that I have purchased from.

<http://www.KEH.com>

### Resources:

Mirrorless vs DSLR cameras: 10 key differences

<http://www.techradar.com/news/photography-video-capture/cameras/mirrorless-vs-dslr-1304910>