Art 138   **Photography General Guidelines**

If you have previous photography knowledge, and/or taken other photography classes, you are welcome to apply any and all shooting techniques to our 138 projects as long as they won't hurt our goals for the project. For example, don't shoot shallow DOF when doing a project specifically designed to teach you blur techniques in Photoshop.

If you haven't taken previous photography courses, don't worry. It is not required of you in this class. For those without a lot of photography or camera knowledge, here are some helpful tips:

1. Use Auto White Balance.
2. Shoot the highest quality image you can with the least compression possible. Hint: It will give you the largest file size available on your camera.
3. If your camera only shoots in automatic mode, then shoot outdoors with a lot of available light for this class. Think about shooting between 8am-4pm as a general rule.
4. If you have to shoot indoors or in a lowlight situation, then use a tripod.
5. When using auto focus, check to see if the camera focused on your subject. If it focused on something else, put your subject in the center of the frame, click the shutter release button half way down, and then compose the image as you like.
6. Most camera lens can't focus closer than 2 feet away from the subject.
7. When composing your shots, try to have a strong visible subject that fills at least half of the frame.
8. Avoid putting your subject in the center all the time.
9. Be careful with moving objects, a lot of time they will be blurred.
10. If your camera has an adjustable ISO setting, try 400 for daytime photographs.
11. If your camera has an "S" mode, try using it and set the shutter speed to 125.
12. If your camera has scene modes, try these:

Symbol	Exposure Mode	Description
AUTO	Auto	Completely automatic photography; the camera analyzes the scene and tries to choose settings that produce the best results.
(flash off)	Auto Flash Off	Same as Full Auto, but with flash disabled.
(person)	Portrait	Designed to produce softly focused backgrounds for flattering portraits.
(mountain)	Landscape	Designed to keep both near and distant subjects in sharp focus.
(child)	Child	Same as Portrait, but with bolder colors of clothing, toys, and other objects and a slightly faster shutter speed to capture a moving child without blur.
(runner)	Sports	Selects faster shutter speed to capture moving subjects without blur.
(flower)	Close Up	Produces softly focused backgrounds especially suitable for close-ups of flowers and other nature subjects.

Symbol	Exposure Mode	Description
P	Programmed Autoexposure	Camera selects both the f-stop and shutter speed to ensure proper exposure, but the user can choose from multiple combinations of the two settings.
A	Aperture-priority Autoexposure	The user selects f-stop, and the camera selects the shutter speed that will produce a good exposure.
S	Shutter-priority Autoexposure	The user sets shutter speed, and the camera selects the f-stop that will produce a good exposure.

Here are some helpful resources: http://www.cambridgeincolour.com/photography-techniques.htm