

Getting started with Digital Cameras

We are only going to learn the basic controls for our cameras as a group as every camera has its own place for controls. Please bring your cameras and manuals to every class for the next few weeks and write down any questions you may have.

Insert the memory card and format it with the controls in the menu. This card is not meant for storage and should be reformatted each week after the images have been saved elsewhere.

SHOOTING

- Use M (manual) and set that choice on the mode dial. (DO NOT MOVE IT AS IT CAN CHANGE OTHER SETTINGS) Your shutter speed and f-stop will appear in your viewfinder along with a scale with plus on one side and minus on the other. Change the shutter speed and/or aperture to move the exposure to the middle for correct exposure.
- Set your ISO dial to 200 unless you are in low light where you might try 800 or higher with lower quality results. Just hold the ISO button and turn the main control dial, or change it in your menus.
- Set your file format to RAW. RAW IS THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE FORMAT FOR THIS CLASS. Hold down the Quality button on the back and move the main control dial to select RAW or chose it in the menus.
- Set your White Balance to "Auto" for the time being You can use the auto focus or not or set the diopter to match your eyes. Hold the camera properly and meter, focus, fire.

OFFLOADING THE IMAGES

You must copy the images from the card/camera before you look at your pictures or try to work with them. Use a memory card reader or your USB cable and save the images to the pictures folder in a directory with your name on it. The only way to be certain that you have your pictures is to back them up to a portable hard drive or DVD. Check your computers hard drive to make certain that these RAW files are saved. They are called .NEF for Nikon cameras, CR2 for Canon, and have other names for other brands. Now you can look at your images. Open Bridge and look at the folder with your images. Locate your folder and the thumbnails start to appear. Follow the directions that will be demonstrated in class. Don't forget to change the window sizes so you can see your images as large as possible.