

# 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

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

- ◆ 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



# Extra goodies

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- ◆ 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  $\geq$  \$500 for SLR + standard zoom + tripod
- ◆ CS 178 loaner cameras are
  - Canon A590 point-and-shoot (takes surprisingly good pictures!)
  - Nikon D40 (or D3000) with 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 (28-88mm equiv.)