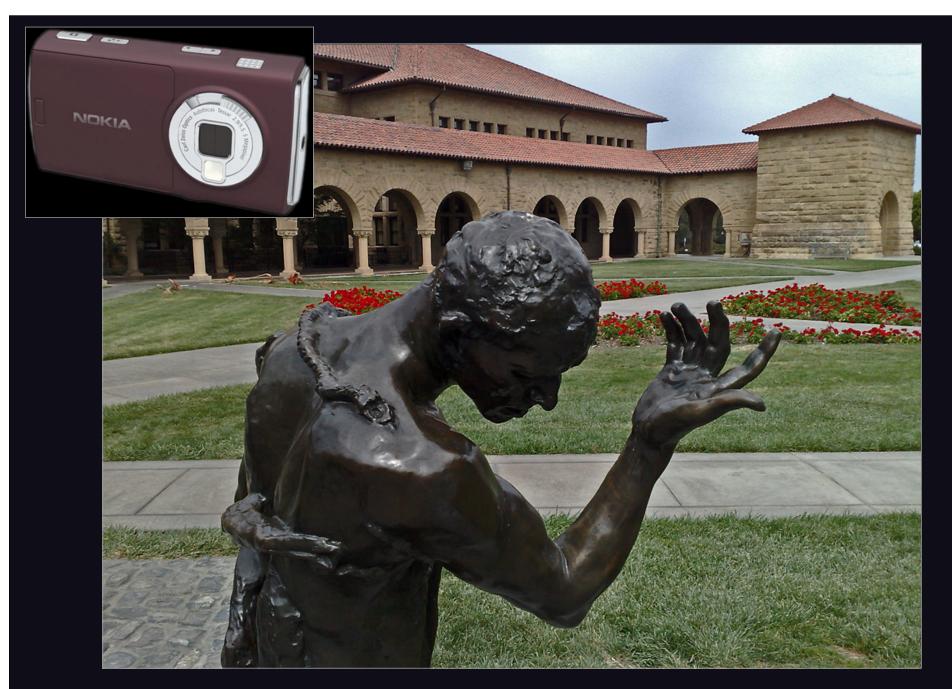
Choosing a camera

CS 178, Spring 2010



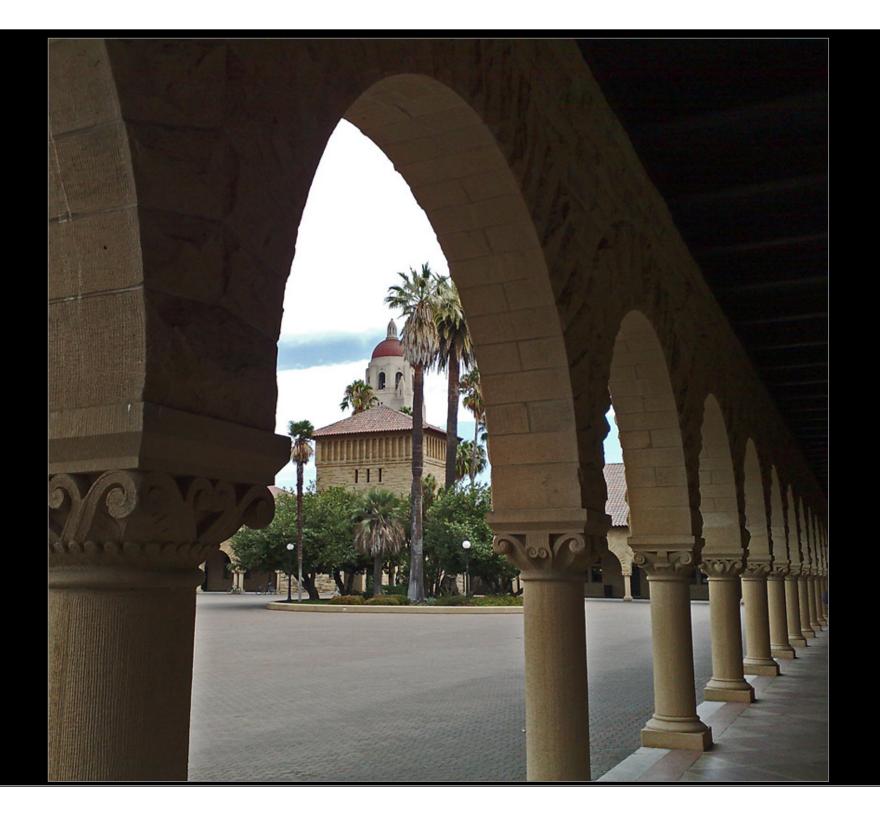
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Having an SLR is neither necessary nor sufficient for taking good photographs.

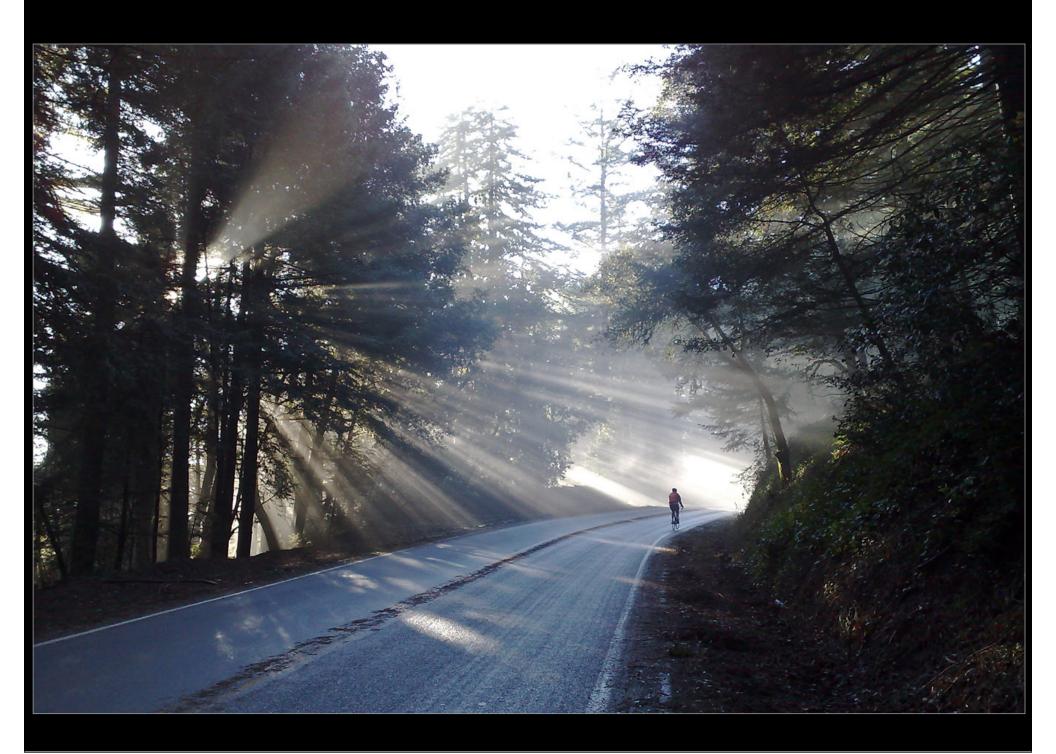


unretouched pictures from Nokia N95 (5 megapixels, Zeiss lens, auto-focus)









Choosing a camera

- 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

- → 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 <u>much</u> better pictures than a built-in flash aimed at the subject
- + 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) with 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 (28-88mm equiv.)