

# Photography @ VCD: Kent State University

## Recommended Cameras/Systems - Academic year 2020 - 2021

Photography @ VCD is a digital-based program and all images are made with digital cameras. As such, there are several camera options for you to consider. However, before you decide on your preferred camera system, first consider your major or area of concentration and the extent of your future involvement in and with photography. If you plan to major in Photography or take Photography classes beyond Photo 1, your camera will need to be tether-able (hard-wired) to a laptop. The primary programs we tether to are Adobe Lightroom and Capture One Pro. Follow the links below for the list of cameras each program will work with. Note: Photo Majors are required to work with Capture One starting in their second program year. We recommend either Nikon or Canon cameras for a range of reasons including interchangeability with classmates, depreciation value, state-of-art, availability of rental equipment in the VCD Resource Room.

All cameras used in Photography @ VCD classes must have interchangeable lens capability; feature a manual mode that allows for setting ISO, f-stop and shutter speeds; allow manual focusing and also have the ability to work in monochrome (black and white) mode. 18 mega-pixels is the minimum acceptable sensor resolution. Mirror-less cameras are acceptable but be aware of their limitations with interchangeability with our inventory of cameras and lenses and fellow students.

dSLR cameras offer greater technical and image control and allows use of a broader range of interchangeable lenses with a wide range of focal lengths. The cameras listed below are recommendations offered to allow for a spectrum of sophistication and price considerations. Camera technology is advancing rapidly so please carefully research your decision.

Note- If you currently own a DSLR that is not listed below, but meets the above requirements, chances are it may be fine for this class. However, tethering is required should you wish to advance in the photography program. In all cases, if you are unsure, check with the Department for guidance. Contact Assistant Professor Tim Bell at [tbell32@kent.edu](mailto:tbell32@kent.edu)

Notes: Tether-able means the camera will connect directly to a laptop. This is not required for Photo 1 but is for all other Photography classes. The prices/specifications stated below are for reference only. Please confirm pricing, specifications and tether-ability.

### **Additional accessories needed:**

- Camera Cards (typically SD or CF or both): We recommend at least two 16 GB cards (in speed class 6 or higher).
- Tether Cable: Good quality cable that will fit your camera body and connect to your Laptop (MacBook Pro). We recommend the Tether Tools brand. Minimum length is 6'-recommended is 15'.
- Backup Digital File Storage. There are many options for this purpose- external drives, Cloud-Based (Google Drive, Dropbox, etc), jump drives, external hard drives, etc. Make allowances to backup your work!!!
- Tripod: You will need a sturdy tripod for all classes beyond Photo 1. Depending upon your commitment/future involvement to the medium, select a tripod that is appropriate to your needs. Prices may range from \$50.00 to \$500.00.
- Additional battery: Your camera should come with a battery and charger- you will need at least one additional battery as a spare.
- B&H Video in New York is a reputable retailer with good pricing and they offer a student discount program which may be helpful for some of the above: <https://www.bhphotovideo.com/find/eduAdvantage.jsp>

Camera List\_AY 2020-2021

BRAND	MODEL	RESOLUTION (MP)	SENSOR-SIZE (APS-C/DX or FULL FRAME/FX)	PROCESSOR	HOT SHOE	PC SYNC TERMINAL	LIGHTROOM TETHER CAPABLE	PRICE: NEW, BODY ONLY (as of 6/10/20)
Canon	<a href="#">EOS Rebel T6i</a>	24.2 MP	APS-C	DIGIC 6	YES	NO	YES	\$549 (on sale, normally \$749)
Canon	<a href="#">EOS Rebel T7i</a>	24.2 MP	APS-C	DIGIC 7	YES	NO	YES	\$664.05 (on sale, normally \$749.99)
Canon	<a href="#">EOS Rebel T8i</a>	24.1 MP	APS-C	DIGIC 8	YES	NO	YES	\$711.55 (on sale, normally \$749 - new release, preorder available)
Canon	<a href="#">EOS 77D</a>	24.2 MP	APS-C	DIGIC 7	YES	NO	YES	\$949 + lens kit and FREE accessories, not available as body only (on sale, normally \$1399)
Canon	<a href="#">EOS Rebel T6s</a>	24.2 MP	APS-C	DIGIC 6	YES	NO	YES	\$619
Canon	<a href="#">EOS M50 Mirrorl</a>	24.1 MP	APS-C	DIGIC 8	YES	NO	YES	\$479 (on sale, normally \$579)
Canon	<a href="#">EOS 80D</a>	24.2 MP	APS-C	DIGIC 7	YES	NO	YES	\$899 + lens kit and FREE accessories (on sale, normally \$1249)
Canon	<a href="#">EOS 90D</a>	32.5 MP	APS-C	DIGIC 8	YES	NO	YES	\$1199 + FREE accessories
Canon	<a href="#">EOS 6D Mark II</a>	26.2 MP	FULL-FRAME	DIGIC 7	YES	NO	YES	\$1199 + FREE accessories (on sale, normally \$1599)
Canon	<a href="#">EOS 7D Mark II</a>	20.2 MP	APS-C	DUAL DIGIC 6	YES	YES	YES	\$1399 + FREE accessories and WiFi adapter (on sale, normally \$1649)
Canon	<a href="#">EOS 5D Mark IV</a>	30.4 MP	FULL-FRAME	DIGIC 6+	YES	YES	YES	\$2499 + FREE accessories
Canon	<a href="#">EOS R Mirrorless</a>	30.3 MP	FULL-FRAME	DIGIC 8	YES	NO	YES	\$1799 + FREE accessories
Canon	<a href="#">EOS 5DS</a>	50.6 MP	FULL-FRAME	DUAL DIGIC 6	YES	YES	YES	\$3324.05 + FREE accessories (on sale, normally \$3699)
Canon	<a href="#">EOS 5DS R</a>	50.6 MP	FULL-FRAME	DUAL DIGIC 6	YES	YES	YES	\$3514.05 + FREE accessories (on sale, normally \$3899)
Canon	<a href="#">EOS-1D X Mark II</a>	20.2 MP	FULL-FRAME	DUAL DIGIC 6+	YES	YES	YES	\$4749.05 (on sale, normally \$5999)
Canon	<a href="#">EOS-1D X Mark II</a>	20.1 MP	FULL-FRAME	DIGIC X	YES	YES	YES	\$6499 + FREE CFexpress card reader bundle
Nikon	<a href="#">D3500</a>	24.2	DX	EXPEED 4	YES	NO	YES	\$396.95 + 18-55mm lens kit (on sale, normally \$496.95)
Nikon	<a href="#">D5300</a>	24.2 MP	DX	EXPEED 4	YES	NO	YES	\$499 + 18-55mm lens kit OPEN BOX
Nikon	<a href="#">D5600</a>	24.2 MP	DX	EXPEED 4	YES	NO	YES	\$596.95
Nikon	<a href="#">D7200</a>	24.2 MP	DX	EXPEED 4	YES	NO	YES	\$565.95 USED
Nikon	<a href="#">D7500</a>	20.9 MP	DX	EXPEED 5	YES	NO	YES	\$896.95 (on sale, normally \$996.95), \$619.95 REFURBISHED
Nikon	<a href="#">D610</a>	24.3 MP	FX	EXPEED 3	YES	NO	YES	\$896.95 + 50mm lens and accessory kit (on sale, normally \$1996.95)
Nikon	<a href="#">D500</a>	20.9 MP	DX	EXPEED 5	YES	YES	YES	\$1496.95 (on sale, normally \$1596.95), \$1294 OPEN BOX, \$972.95 USED
Nikon	<a href="#">D750</a>	24.3 MP	FX	EXPEED 4	YES	NO	YES	\$1496.95 + FREE accessory kit (on sale, normally \$1696.95)
Nikon	<a href="#">D780</a>	24.5 MP	FX	EXPEED 6	YES	NO	YES	\$1996.95 + FREE accessory kit (on sale, normally \$2296.95)
Nikon	<a href="#">D810</a>	36.3 MP	FX	EXPEED 4	YES	YES	YES	\$2996.95 NEW, \$1899 OPEN BOX, \$1699 REFURBISHED
Nikon	<a href="#">D850</a>	45.7 MP	FX	EXPEED 5	YES	YES	YES	\$2996.95 NEW, \$2600 OPEN BOX, \$2399 REFURBISHED
Nikon	<a href="#">Df</a>	16.2 MP	FX	EXPEED 3	YES	YES	YES	\$2746.95 NEW, \$1449.95 USED
Nikon	<a href="#">D5</a>	20.8 MP	FX	EXPEED 5	YES	YES	YES	\$5496.95(on sale, normally \$6496.95 - customer can choose DUAL CF slots or the newer & faster XQD slots), \$5194 REFURBISHED
Nikon	<a href="#">D6</a>	20.8 MP	FX	EXPEED 6	YES	YES	YES	\$6,496.95
Nikon	<a href="#">Z50</a>	20.9 MP	DX	EXPEED 6	YES	YES	YES	\$856.95 + FREE accessory kit
Nikon	<a href="#">Z6</a>	24.5 MP	FX	EXPEED 6	YES	NO	YES	\$1596.95 (on sale, normally \$1996.95)
Nikon	<a href="#">Z7</a>	45.7 MP	FX	EXPEED 6	YES	NO	YES	\$2,796.95

Notes:

- Be aware of seemingly great prices from retailers- these may be Gray-Market cameras designated for foreign markets and Canon/Nikon USA will not honor warranties or service them.
- Both Canon and Nikon offer factory-refurbished models at a discount with warranty. Google it!
- B & H Video in New York offers a student EDU Advantage Program with discounts and equipment and supplies recommendations. [Link here.](#)
- <https://www.bhphotovideo.com/find/eduAdvantage.jsp?origSearch=Macbook%20Pro%20For%20Student%20Discount>
- **Please note: The prices/specifications stated are for reference only. Please confirm pricing, specifications and tetherability for both Lightroom and Capture One Pro (Majors).** Google it!