SLR Camera Recommendations

Before you purchase your first digital SLR, take the time to do your research; you don’t need to have your camera on the first night of class or be in a hurry to invest. You may want to wait until after your first class so you can speak with the instructor and other students to get their feedback. You may enjoy having the opportunity to handle and try out their cameras to inform your decision. Knowing what you want and/or what you need can be difficult to judge at the very beginning.

We recommend doing research online to find the best price, and then checking out the camera in a store before you buy. Make certain the camera is a good weight and comfortable for you, and that you can use all the features easily.

Locally, students have had great experiences and thoughtful advice at:
Webb Cam Photographic
241 North 12th St, Philadelphia, APA 19107
215.923.8380 or info@webbcam.net
http://www.webbcam.net

Online, B&H Photo has extensive resources and equipment for photographers.
http://www.bhphotovideo.com/

Below is a list of the top Digital SLR’s for beginners that we recommend (in no particular order):

1. Canon EOS Rebel T3 (1100D)
This is a user-friendly DSLR where you can easily aim and shoot. Autofocus performance, speed and high quality of image you’re looking for in a DSLR found here, plus variations of basic shooting modes. While this camera is for beginners, which may lack the specifications that those advanced photographers are looking for, the T3’s price is low. This is able to capture video clips over HD 720p plus an HDMI port to get to attach your camera to a television for playback. Its features include a 12.2 Megapixel Sensor, a maximum shutter speed of 1/4000, can capture 3 photos per second, with an ISO Range of 100 to 6400, Viewfinder has a 95% Coverage, weighs 495g and with a built in flash.
2. Canon EOS Rebel T4i

Canon EOS Rebel T4i Digital Camera with EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 IS II Lens

- STM Lens Support for Quiet AF in Movies
- 18.0MP APS-C CMOS Sensor
- DIGIC 5 Image Processor
- 3.0" Vari-Angle Touch Screen LCD
- ISO 100-12800, Expandable to 25600
- Full HD Movie Mode with Continuous AF
- 5.0 fps Continuous Shooting
- 9-Point All Cross-Type AF System
- Multi Shot Noise Reduction
- EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 IS II Lens

3. Nikon D3200

Nikon’s D3200 produces very nice and even sharp photos, because of its lenses being some of the best. Its function is just like Canon’s EOS 1000D - handy since it is small, light, easy to use. Easy to understand and there are built-in picture-taking tips plus one of those inexpensive DSLRs.

- 24.2MP DX-Format CMOS Sensor
- EXPEED III Image Processor
- 3" 921K-Dot LCD
- AF-S DX NIKKOR 18-55mm 3.5-5.6G VR Lens
- 11-Point Autofocus
- HD 1080p Video
- Live View
- Up To ISO 12800
- Optional WU-1a Wireless Mobile Adapter
4. Nikon D90
A high-end camera even when just starting in the field, the Nikon D90 is user-friendly and has retouching option; it costs and weighs less than a D300. This becomes the replacement of the D80. Its features include a 12.9 Megapixel DX-format CMOS sensor, Movie capture that ranges up to 1280x720p plus 24fps, ISO range is from 200-3200, Viewfinder size is 36% frame coverage and also has a 72 Thumbnail and calendar view in its playback.

5. Nikon D5200
An attractive yet accessible camera even when you’re just beginning to swivel through the world of Photography. Two words Nikon uses to describe this model: Inexpensive and Simplified.

- AF-S DX 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6G VR Lens
- 24.1MP DX CMOS Sensor
- EXPEED 3 Image Processing Engine
- 3.0” 921k-Dot Vari-Angle LCD Monitor
- 39-Point AF System with 9 Cross-Type
- Full HD Video with Full-Time Servo AF
- Expandable ISO from 100-25600
- 5fps Continuous Shooting Rate
- Scene Recognition System
- Compatible with WU-1a Wireless Adapter
6. Olympus OM-D E-M5

Olympus OM-D E-M5 Mirrorless Micro Four Thirds Digital Camera with 12-50mm Lens (Silver)

- 16.1MP Live MOS Sensor
- TruePic VI Image Processor
- Micro Four Thirds System
- 12-50mm Zoom Lens (35mm Equiv: 24-100mm)
- 3.0" 610k-Dot Touchscreen OLED Monitor
- 1440k-Dot Electronic LCD Viewfinder
- Full HD 1080i Video at 60fps
- 5-Axis Sensor-Shift Image Stabilization
- ISO 200-25,600
- FAST AF System

7. Canon EOS 60D DSLR

- Includes Canon EF-S 18-135mm IS Lens
- 18MP APS-C CMOS Sensor
- 1920 x 1080 HD Video Capture
- SD/SDHC/SDXC Memory Card Slot
- Vari-Angle Clear View 3.0" Flip-Out LCD
- DIGIC 4 Image Processor
- 5.3 fps Continuous Shooting
- Works with all Canon EF and EF-S Lenses
- ISO 6400 - Expandable to 12800
- HDMI Output to HDTV