

Purchasing a Digital SLR Camera

Mr. Daniel Gagnon
South Kingstown High School
215 Columbia Street
Wakefield, RI 02879
(401) 360-1000 x.1041
dgagnon@skschools.net
<http://hs.skschools.net/teachers/dgagnon>

What type of camera do I buy?

Choosing between a compact (or "point and shoot") and a digital SLR camera is often the first big purchasing decision when starting out with photography. Not only is it potentially a big financial decision, but it may also determine what kinds of shots you'll be capable of capturing.

In this class we work with **digital SLR cameras** that have **manual control settings**, specifically the **NIKON D3100 w/ 18-55mm lens**.

What is a digital SLR camera?

Strictly speaking, SLR (single lens reflex) cameras have viewfinders that see the same light as the camera's sensor, but in practice this isn't the only distinction. The (3) main differences are:

1. **Viewfinder Mechanism**
2. **Fixed vs. Interchangeable Lenses**
3. **Camera Sensor Size** (a 10 Megapixel point and shoot camera does not produce the same size/quality images as a 10 Megapixel SLR camera)

However, this deserves mentioning up-front: SLR cameras are usually MUCH more expensive than compact cameras — mostly as a consequence of the above three differences.

What is the cost of a digital SLR?

Below are the 2 best beginner/semi-professional cameras currently on the market.

<p>Nikon D3100 Digital SLR Camera with 18-55mm NIKKOR VR Lens</p>  <p>Price: \$646.95 Instant Savings: -\$150.00 Offer ends SEP 29 '12 You Pay: \$496.95</p> <p>Free Shipping (USA) In Stock B&H # NID31001855 Mfr# 25472 ★★★★★ (1003 reviews) write a review</p> <p>Product Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14.2MP DX Sensor• 3" LCD• Live View• HD 1080p Video w/ Sound & Autofocus• 11-point Autofocus• 3 Frames per Second Shooting• ISO 100 to 3200 (Expand to 12800-Hi2)• Self Cleaning Sensor• EXPEED 2 Image Processing Engine• Scene Recognition System	<p>Canon EOS Rebel T3 Digital Camera and 18-55mm IS II Lens Kit</p>  <p>Price: \$549.00 Instant Savings: -\$50.00 Offer ends SEP 29 '12 You Pay: \$499.00</p> <p>Free Shipping (USA) In Stock B&H # CAEDRT3K Mfr# 5157B002 ★★★★★ (322 reviews) write a review</p> <p>Product Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12.2MP APS-C CMOS Sensor• 18-55 EF-S Lens Included• SD/SDHC/SDXC Memory Card Slot• DIGIC 4 Imaging Processor• 2.7" Clear View LCD• 720p HD Movie Mode• 100-6400 ISO• Compatible with Canon EF and EF-S Lenses• 63 Zone Dual-Layer System / 9 Point AF• 3 fps Continuous Shooting
--	--

Where can I buy a digital SLR camera?

Online sources:

www.bhphotovideo.com

www.adorama.com

Stores:

Best Buy

Walmart

Target

I would love a digital SLR but financially its not possible... What's the next best thing?

The next best thing would be any compact or point and shoot camera that allows full manual controls.

