Assignment Title: Seeing Like A Camera

There are many ways in which what we see with our eyes is very different from what the camera records. This assignment is intended to get you to see your surroundings as if your eyes are camera lens, and to familiarize you with the manual controls of your camera. The most important difference between the camera and your eyes is that the camera records everything it sees within a rectangular frame, as if you were to put four walls around the subject. Sometimes this is a challenging process because it forces you to decide what to include, what to exclude, and how those things automatically change the relationship of the subject to its surroundings. Remember, the viewer does not have the memory of the original context of the subject that you do. Once you release the shutter, you have “re-contextualized” the subject; you have put the subject in a frame of reference different from its normal context.

“Photography is about finding out what can happen in the frame. When you put four edges around some facts, you change those facts.”

“The frame creates a world, and photography is about that world.”

-Gary Winogrand

Here are a few things to think about or try during this assignment:

• What does the frame cause you to decide what to include or exclude? How does that change the content?

• What happens if you move left, right, up or down? What changes inside the frame?

• What if there is nothing in the middle of the frame, only the edges?

• Instead of horizontal framing, try a vertical frame or something tilted in between the two. How does the frame shape and orientation relate to the subject?

• Change your focus. What happens if you focus on something closer or further from your subject? This works especially well if you subject is very close and you use large apertures like f2.8, f3.5 or f4.

• Can you make something very familiar look unfamiliar or abstract?

• Think about isolation and inclusion, real and metaphorical.

• Use the frame to split things in half or only show a small portion of something. This works well for adding mystery and causing the viewer to think about the subject in a different way.

• What’s in the background? What does the background tell about the subject?
The subject matter for this assignment should be things that interest and intrigue you. You might even try an environment you think you know well and see what you learn about it that’s new.

Here are the rules regarding how I want you to shoot this assignment:

- Shoot 30 images for this assignment.
- Photograph each subject twice, substantially changing the framing between the two shots.
- Shoot outdoors during the day from morning through evening.
- Avoid landscapes with large vistas.

  **Technical Note: When transferring image files to the computer, DO NOT CHANGE THE FILE name, keep the original camera file name (for example, IMG_4367.jpg)**

Camera Settings To Keep In Mind:

- Use Manual Exposure Mode. When you change your framing, the exposure may also change a little. Keep adjusting your settings (f-stops/shutter speeds) in order to keep the same correct exposure.
- Set your file size to Large/Fine jpeg or Medium/Fine jpeg. **No Raw files.**
- Keep the ISO setting as low as possible (100) unless you shoot very early in the morning or very late in the afternoon.
- Make sure you shutter speed is fast enough to eliminate camera shake, at least 1/60 sec. If your pictures are not sharp, select a larger f-stop, this will help you keep a faster shutter speed. If that does not work, set your ISO to a higher number.
- Use Auto White Balance (AWB).
- **Do Not Use Flash.**
- Be sure that your camera is set with the correct date and time.

The objective of this assignment is to see how much you can change a subject by looking at it in a different way. There are no mistakes and no “right” way to do this assignment. Experiment and try anything, even if it sounds unreasonable at the time. This assignment is designed to make you more aware about what you take pictures of and to get you familiar with the controls available on your camera.

Please think about every shot, and do not edit your images! I want to see everything you shoot for this assignment.
TURN IN:

• 2 Contact Sheets, each containing 15 images.

• A flash drive with all 30 images. Your camera files are to be presented with original image number format. For example: IMG_3456.jpg

• Print one full frame 10” print (10 X 6.667 or 6.667 X 10”) on 8.5 X 11 Ilford Galerie Smooth Pearl Paper. No corrections in Adobe Camera Raw (ACR) are required. Note: This should be the image in which you were most successful at transforming your subject with a unique point-of-view.

• Place work in a 12 X 15.5 Manila Envelope (this size required).

• Label Manila envelope with:
  Name / Assignment # / Date Turned In / Photo 123 /Instructor-Barrett

Due: Beginning of Lecture. Check Weekly Schedule sheet for due date.