DESN 350 Summer 2016 - Week 3 Part 1
Portraiture

1a – 1g. Submit your best **seven portraits** of family members or friends, or another class member, taken in the CEB 125 studio, using only the studio lights provided in the room. You might find this assignment much easier if you work with a partner from the class.

At least two lighting sources, main and fill (or main and reflected fill), should be used in each case (except perhaps e). Of course you will be combining lighting in a couple cases, such as using a background light with a, b, c, or d. Have at least this many examples of the following (seven total images):

    a• Two are standard-lighted portraits.
    b• One is a broad-lighted portrait.
    c• One is a short-lighted portrait.
    d• One is a butterfly lighted portrait.
    e• One dramatic portrait in black and white.
          This might be chiaroscuro or similar.
    f• At least one with a background light.
    g• At least one with a hair light.

Add a short **caption** to each image indicating the type of lighting used (standard, broad, short, butterfly, background, with hair light, and so on). Crop the images vertically to bust (head and shoulders) or half-length (up from the waist), with appropriate tone and corrected color.

2a – 2d. Submit **four portraits**, taken indoors **with natural soft window light** that is somewhat **directional**. Use two different locations. Produce a "serious but natural" pose, a relaxed-happy pose, a "true-personality-revealing" pose. Don't forget to color-correct that indirect window light.

3. Take one portrait **outdoors**, using natural indirect (soft) light + a reflector for fill. Strive to get it as close to studio quality as possible.

Portrait Assignment Details:
Strive for perfection. Strive for classic portraits.
• Use a tripod • Use a little zoom (85mm?) • Subject should appear relaxed. Try to create portraits that provide an insight into your model's personality. Smiling? Amused? Serious? Thoughtful? Head tilted? Steady gaze? Sparkle? Try them all.

• Portraits should be flattering. Ask the person what they like and don't like about their own looks. For example, sharp facial features can be softened; wide faces not widened further, large noses like Braukmann's de-emphasized, rough skin softened.

• Lighting should appear natural, with *accurate white balance*. Include a gray card in one or all of the images so that it is easy to accurately color correct later; use the custom white balance option on your camera if possible; use RAW if possible.

• All images should be **properly exposed** *without clipping* in the extreme shadow and highlight ranges. It is strongly suggested you **use bracketing**, either automatically if your camera supports it, or manually, with exposure compensation.

• Edit to eliminate multiple **catchlights** in the eyes (rubber stamp?). Lighten shadow areas if necessary. Touch up blemishes as appropriate, but without leaving any evidence of your work.

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4. Retouch the assigned image Woman.jpg. As appropriate, correct skin tone, eyes, wrinkles, etc. Watch out for clipping. Watermark and turn in a jpg.

Questions from Class and Lab
Why would you usually avoid using a shorter focal length lens focal length for portraits?

How far should the camera be from the subject and the subject from the background? Why?

How did we set up – prepare our cameras for portraiture?

Why is flash often used for portraiture?

What are "hot lights"?

How does a "slave" flash unit trigger?

What are the implications for using incandescent lights to take portraits?

How would you use a flat reflector for a portrait taken in the field?

How can a soft box or flash diffuser improve the portrait you are taking?

A snoot is...?

What do umbrellas do to the light?

What is hard light good for in a portrait?

Would you move a soft (diffused) light source *closer* or *further away* from the subject if you wanted to make the light even *more soft*?

Moving the light source *twice as far away* from the subject reduces the intensity of the light on the subject by how much?

What is the recommended ratio of main light intensity to fill-in light intensity in portraits?

Explain the nominal main/fill lighting arrangement.

How is a background light used in a studio?

How is a hair light used in a studio? What is different about the setup of a hair light?

Why would you use a hair light?

Explain a short lighting setup including which way the subject is facing.

What sort of facial shape would benefit from short lighting?

Explain a broad lighting setup including which way the subject is facing.

What sort of facial shape would benefit from broad lighting?

Explain a butterfly lighting setup including which way the subject is facing.

What is the difference between Butterfly and Paramount lighting?

What sort of facial characteristic would benefit from butterfly lighting?

What is Rembrandt lighting?

What is side lighting?

Explain chiaroscuro lighting.

What are catchlights?

Say you have your camera and lights adjusted perfectly for a portrait session. Now what is your next biggest challenge?

Questions from Class Editing
What blending mode did we use to change the hair color? *Overlay worked best. Normal is ok.*

What was the secret to creating a glamorous glow? *We used Overlay to blend in a Gaussian blurred version of the image.*

Which channel shows the most skin blemishes, Red Green or Blue?

What is the difference between the patch tool and the healing brush?

What tools did we use to widen the eyes?

What is "content-aware" fill?

What are the secrets to using the liquefy tool effectively?