Problem Set 1

Due 11:59PM ET on Thursday, September 17, 2015.
Staff email: staff@dme10.org

Part I.   Setup! (70 points)

The projects, problem sets, and critiques for this course require submitting various types of files toward their completion. Critiques, for instance, will use Tumblr for submission and discussion.

> **Tumblr** (http://www.tumblr.com) is a microblogging service that allows an author to quickly post text, pictures, video, and other media via an easy-to-use interface. The staff will be using this to post announcements, photos, and posts with links to items that are either directly or tangentially related to the course or class material. Tumblr is the means through which you will be sharing your critique photos! In fact, you will be posting directly to the Exposing Digital Photography Blog found at: http://blog.digitalphotography.exposed.

The blog is password protected so that only registered students and staff will have access to it. This password will be sent out via an email to registered students.

To be clear, Tumblr is separate from the course Twitter account @expodigiphoto which we will use for announcements, musings, behind-the-scenes, and other less formal communication from the staff. The announcements from staff on Twitter will mirror those found on Tumblr, and is therefore a publicly accessible way of receiving course information without needing to enter the blog's password. This is purely optional, however, and there is no need to join Twitter unless you'd like to follow along with that additional channel of information.

Of course, all critical announcements (such as schedule changes to lectures or assignments) will always be sent out by email to registered students in addition to any postings on the blog and Twitter.

Submission of projects and problem sets will be done via a separate submission tool. This detail will be finalized with enough time to submit this problem set. Most likely, it will use Harvard PIN authentication for access. Please be sure you are registered for the course in order to gain access to the submission tool.

Back to setup. As part of your participation in the course you will need some accounts with two online services: one that will allow you to post to the blog and one that enables critique discussions on the blog. For either of these services you may use an existing account or create a new one. Instructions for signing up for these accounts and notifying us of those accounts follow.

1. **Sign up for Tumblr.** If you have an existing account and you don't mind using it for the course then feel free to skip this step (one warning: the primary blog in your existing account may become visible to your classmates). If you need an account or if you wish to create a new one, simply submit the registration form on the Tumblr homepage:

    https://www.tumblr.com/

    This will create your own Tumblr account and blog. Feel free to use the newly-created blog for your own purposes since we will not be using it for this course. You may also add as many other blogs as you wish. In a moment, we will have you tell us the email address that you used to register for Tumblr. Shortly afterwards, we will add you as a member of the Exposing Digital Photography Blog and you

will gain you permission to author posts on the course's Tumblr. To familiarize yourself with this service, try posting something on your own new blog! Maybe a selfie? Just kidding.

2. **Sign up for Disqus.** Disqus is a commenting system that is enabled on the Exposing Digital Photography Blog. It is the primary mechanism through which everyone involved in the course (staff and registered students) will be able to comment on photos and posts made to the course blog. Again, if you have an existing account and you do not mind using it for the course then feel free to skip this step. As with Tumblr, the same caveat applies if you are re-using an account: your fellow classmates may have access to your discussions on other sites. If you need an account or would like to create a new one, simply visit the Disqus website and click "Sign Up":

   https://disqus.com/

   The sign-up form allows you to create a new account specific to Disqus **or** to create a new account that is associated with an existing account you have from Facebook, Google, or Twitter. You may choose any option you wish; the advantage of signing up with an existing account from Google, Facebook, or Twitter is that you eliminate the need to remember yet another login since that existing account will gain you access to Disqus. One disadvantage might be that it is theoretically possible to associate the data from the two linked accounts thereby decreasing the anonymity of your Disqus posts. Our suggestion is to sign in with an existing account, if you have one, to reduce complexity. If you are very concerned about issues of privacy, however, you may certainly sign up with new credentials specific to Disqus.

3. **Submit the setup form.** Once you are registered for Tumblr and Disqus, you will need to tell us some information that will allow us to complete the setup on our end. Please submit the following setup form no later than this problem set's deadline:

   http://bit.ly/dme10-2015-setup

   After 24 to 48 hours, you should receive a message to the email address associated with your Tumblr account that will invite you to participate and author posts on the course blog.

   Please be sure to keep an eye on your inbox for this email! If you do not receive anything after 48 hours, check your spam folder to see if the invitation might have been considered junk. If you still do not find it, please email staff@dme10.org and we will re-send your invitation.

Part II. Let me take a #selfie. (30 points)

Normally, problem sets are just that: sets of problems that require computed and written responses. Projects will involve taking a series of photographs within some constraints and therefore require exercising both technical and artistic skills. This first problem set is unique, as it is the only one that requires submission of photographs. Subsequent problem sets and projects will fall into their normal pattern.

In the meantime, we'd like to get to know you a little better! You've told us a little about yourself in the setup form (Part I, above), but we'd like to see you, as well. Please submit two photos by this problem set's due date:

1. **self.jpg:** The "selfie" phenomenon has come to mean a very specific type of self-portrait; one meant to be flattering, casual, and taken with the assistance of a mirror or with no assistance at all by pointing the camera at oneself. You don't need to submit a selfie to us, but we would like a portrait of you! This photo can be taken by someone else (in other words, it does not have to be a selfie), and it

does not have to be specifically taken for this course. It can be your favorite photo of yourself, if you'd like. No matter what the photo is, please be sure you are the only person in it and that you are clearly visible and identifiable.

Technical Requirements: Submit a JPEG image with a name "**self.jpg**" whose contents matches the description in the previous paragraph. Please crop it to be square and resize to 600 pixels by 600 pixels.

2. **avatar.jpg**: We are considering compiling a album of photos of everyone in the class along with email addresses that will be private to staff and students enrolled in the course. In the setup form we asked for a "Shared Email" for this purpose, and this is the photographic equivalent for it. Whereas the self-portrait image (above) is purely for staff purposes, this image should represent you to other students in the class. It does not have to be a picture *of* you, but you may certainly submit a copy of your self-portrait as this image if you are comfortable doing so.

   This photograph may be of an object (say, an object from a hobby of yours), a favorite photograph you've taken, a pet, and so on. But if the picture clearly identifies a person, that person should be you! In any event, this should be a photograph that is unique and representative of you.

   Technical Requirements: Submit a JPEG image with the name "**avatar.jpg**". Please crop it to be square and resize to 600 pixels by 600 pixels. Again, it may be a copy of the self-portrait image if you are comfortable doing so.

   While you're at it, why not add this same image to your Disqus and Tumblr profiles?