DESN 350 Week 6-7 Assignments Sp14
Reading: Ben Long Ch 10 Lighting
Part of Ch 21: pp 536-539
Part of Ch 23: pp 570-574

Portraiture Assignment
Assignment 1. Submit your best *five portraits* of a family member or friend, or another class member, taken in the CEB 125/C studio, using only the lights provided in the room. You may need a key card to have access to CEB 125 and CEB 125C, which is accessed through CEB 125. You might find this assignment much easier if you work with one or two partners from the class.

At least two lighting sources, main and fill (or main and reflected fill), should be used in each case. Produce each of the following (five total):
- One standard-lighted portrait.
- One broad-lighted portrait.
- One short-lighted portrait.
- One butterfly lighted portrait.
- One portrait with a background light.

Add a short *caption* to each image indicating the type of lighting used (standard, broad, short, butterfly, background)

Assignment 2. Submit *two portraits*, taken with *natural soft window light* that comes from one side of the subject. Use two different locations.

Portrait Assignment Details:
Strive for perfection. Strive for classic portraits.
• Use a tripod • Use a little zoom (70mm?) • 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 can be softened.

• Lighting should be natural, with *accurate white balance*. Use the custom white balance option on your camera if possible. Use RAW if possible. As a check, have the subject hold a gray card, or a piece of white paper or white material that would be seen just along the edge of the image, and could be used to guide color adjustment later in Photoshop (as with Curves or Levels), and then cropped away.

• All images should be ***properly exposed*** *without clipping* in the extreme shadow and highlight ranges. It is strongly

suggested you ***use bracketing***, automatically if your camera supports it, or manually, with exposure compensation.

• Edit to eliminate multiple catchlights in the eyes. Touch up blemishes as appropriate, but without leaving any evidence of your work.

3. Sharpening Tutorial Assignment
Open the textbook image Portrait.tif and selectively sharpen it as outlined on page 574. (A selective_sharpening.pdf is available on the course web site.) Watermark and turn in a jpg.

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.

Study Questions from Long, Ch 10
What kind of light enhances/increases contrast?

What kind of light minimizes/decreased contrast?

What kind of light do you usually want for portraits?

How do you use a diffuser to improve your images?

How would you use a reflector to improve your images?

Explain Broad lighting.

Explain Short (or "Narrow") lighting.

What is a fill flash?

What is flash exposure compensation?

Why is a standard flash usually unflattering?
> *Dark edge shadows. Flat face.*

Why is tilt and swivel desirable on a flash unit?
> *To bounce the light off of ceiling or walls.*
> *Softens light and gives it better direction.*

Why is an off-camera flash better than on-camera?
Better form. No direct light that flattens the image.
Can attach a diffuser, like an umbrella reflector.

Study Questions from Long, *PP 536-539*
How were the wrinkles removed in Figure 21.28?

How does the Healing Brush work? You should try it.

How do you reduce noise in a RAW image? In a non-RAW image?

Study Questions from Long, *PP 570 - 574*
When you apply the "unsharpen mask" filter, what actually happens?

What is the "key" to good Unsharp Masking?
> *Don't do too much!*

Why should you always sharpen at 100% pixel view?

What type of images can generally stand more sharpening?

How do you use layers and "paint" to control where sharpening occurs in your image?

Study Notes: Questions/Answers About Portraiture
Why would you usually avoid using a shorter lens focal length for portraits?
It pulls the face and emphasizes noses.

What color backdrops are often recommended for men and for women? *Browns/earth tones for men. Brighter colors, esp blues for women and children.*

Why is indirect flash often used for portraiture?
No blur. Camera does not need to be on a tripod.

How does a "slave" flash unit trigger?
It senses another flash and follows it.

What are the implications for using incandescent lights to take portraits?
Not as bright as flash. Probably need a tripod.
No guesswork in how it is going to look.
Set the white balance for a redder light, usually.

How would you use a flat reflector for a portrait? (Especially one taken in the field!) *To provide light from a second direction. As an inexpensive fill light.*

How can a soft box or flash diffuser improve the portrait you are taking? *Softens facial features.*

A barndoor is? *A flap that limits the direction a light will shine.*

A snoot is? *A restrictive tube that limits a light to a narrow spot. Used for a hair light, for instance.*

What do umbrellas do? *Either reflective or translucent, they diffuse light - not be so directional.*

Is a hard light good for anything in a portrait?
Emphasizes the texture, and "character lines".

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? *Closer, usually!*

Moving the light source *twice as far away* from the subject reduces the intensity of the light on the subject by how much? *1/4th as bright on the subject.*

What is the recommended ratio of main light intensity to fill-in light intensity in portraits? *3:1 or 2:1*

Explain the nominal main/fill lighting arrangement.
Main light placed slightly above and 45 degrees to the side. Fill light on the opposite side 20 to 45 degrees.

How is a background light used in a studio? *Shines on the backdrop, creating a halo around the portrait.*

How is a hair light used in a studio? *A narrow beam from the front/side shining on the edge of the hair. Especially good against dark backgrounds.*

Explain a short lighting setup including which way the subject is facing. *Main light a little farther to the side. Face turned toward main light.*

What sort of facial shape would benefit from short lighting? *Wide face you want to make narrower. Man's face you want to make chiseled.*

Explain a broad lighting setup including which way the subject is facing. *Side of face is toward main light.*

What sort of facial shape would benefit from broad lighting? *A narrow face you want to broaden. De emphasize blemishes (for teenagers, for instance)*

Explain a butterfly lighting setup including which way the subject is facing. *Main light above camera. Fill light below camera. Subject faces straight ahead.*

What sort of facial shape would benefit from butterfly lighting? *De emphasizes lines around eyes. A glamour shot. Also accentuates eyes and eyelashes, so often used for women.*

What is Rembrandt lighting? *Like short lighting but with the light much higher, as with a skylight.*

Posing tips.
• *Get the subject to relax. Talk to the subject. Natural character is always better then forced.*
• *Eyes are always the focal point. Must be sharp, and full of life.*
• *Edges of hands better than palms or backs.*
• *Elevate chin if baldness is to be minimized.*
• *Large noses benefit from subject facing camera.*
• *Large ears benefit from subject not facing camera, or short lighting.*
• *Wrinkles diminish in soft light.*
• *Glasses produce unwanted reflections. Move something.*