Project 1: Photographing People/Objects with Varied Contrast and Light Angles

Objective:

Now that you have learned how to use a reflector to "fill" your shadows, you can see that whether the natural light available to you outside is high-contrast or low-contrast is up to you! You have also learned how to work with various angles of light: front-lighting, side-lighting, top-lighting, bottom-lighting, back-lighting, and three-quarter (45°) lighting.

Consider both the angle of the light and the contrast level of the light as you make photos that seek to define a mood through how you worked with the light available to you. What angle of light do you want in creating your images? How might you want to control the contrast of the light, either through choice of time of day or through adding of fill light (reflector or fill-flash)?

You are going to create three images that show a variety of light angles and contrast ratios. Each of these should demonstrate *intentional* lighting, where your choice of angle/contrast suits the mood you are trying to create with the image.

How to shoot this assignment:

1) The choice of subjects for this assignment is entirely up to you – people, animals, objects, landscapes, plants/trees, etc. But be sure that your chosen subjects will show well the contrast and angle of the lighting you are working with.

2) You will be creating three final images, but I encourage you to shoot more so that you can choose your best examples. In these three images, you need at least one that is shot with sunlight as the primary light source and one that has indoor lighting as the primary light source (not flash). Your images need to demonstrate at least two *clearly* different angles of light (front, side, top, bottom, back, three-quarter). And your three images need to demonstrate different contrast amounts: one with high contrast lighting (dark shadows without much detail), one with medium contrast lighting (shape-defining shadows, but with fill light or reduced darkness), and one with low contrast lighting (minimal shadows, less depth).

3) Besides clearly showing the different contrasts, light angles, and lighting sources above, be sure that this type of lighting and contrast makes sense and works well with your chosen subject. Be able to *explain* why you opted for your chosen amount of contrast and light angle with each image. This is *intentional* lighting, not just because that is what the light was when you shot!!!

4) For projects, I am looking for creative, well composed, well-exposed, beautiful images! This is a chance to show me what you have learned about lighting while also making images of subjects that most interest you.

5) Make notes of the lighting for each of your shots. You will need to make Lighting Diagrams that demonstrate how the lighting was arranged for each of your final images. Show the type of light source, the position of the light(s) relative to your subject, the position of your camera, and whether you included any light modifiers such as a reflector or fill-flash. Use the on-line tools at Strobox.com or LightingDiagrams.com to create your lighting diagrams.

What to turn in:

- 3 final images in RAW format, as well as any manipulations to those images saved as XMP files or PSDs. As always, files should include *your name* in the file name! Number these images 1, 2, 3 so that they match with your lighting diagrams.

- 3 lighting diagrams, one for each final image, *digitally created*. Use Strobox.com or LightingDiagrams.com to build your diagram using the appropriate icons for various light sources, cameras, flashes, reflectors, subjects. Name these with *your name* in the file name, and number your lighting diagrams 1, 2, 3 to match with your images.

- Turn in these photos and lighting diagrams through your shared DropBox folder – keep using the same one you already created, or start a shared folder with me by titling the folder "AI Lighting - *YourName*" and sharing this with "andrew@andrewross.com". Bringing these completed files on a flash drive to class is fine, too.

Grading rubric:

This project will be graded 1/3 on technical requirements, and 2/3 on quality/creativity

Did you turn in 3 photos (in RAW format, with an XMP sidecar file or PSD for any additional manipulations), named appropriately, and are these images well exposed/focused?		10 pts
Do you have good and clear examples of high, medium, and low contrast lighting?		10 pts
Did you shoot both outside (sun as primary light source) and inside (indoor lighting, but not flash, as primary light source)?		10 pts
Do your images show at least two distinct angles of light?		10 pts
Did you turn in 3 lighting diagrams, digitally created and named appropriately, that match your 3 final images?		10 pts
Quality/Creativity Grade (choice of subject, effective use of lighting angle/contrast, establishing mood in your image, good composition)		100 pts
Did you shoot in RAW format and Manual mode? If not, 75 points will be deducted!		
TOTAL		**150 pts**

DUE DATE: at the beginning of class Week 5