

PGY 2401C-02, Fall 2008
Andrew Ross, instructor

Project 4: Portraits

All photographers should learn how to photograph people. And even if you have already tried photographing friends or even strangers, it is important to take the next step of creating *portraits* – images that in themselves tell something about a person through the visual cues you include or capture. Think about lighting, composition, mood/emotion, objects to go with the person, setting, perspective, etc. And of course, think about *who* you are going to make portraits of. You could choose to make many portraits of a single individual where you give each image a unique and expanding view of that person. Or you could choose to make portraits of different people, where these various subjects are bound together through your own theme and idea.

Interaction with your subjects is key to a good portrait. Find people that can be at ease with you and your camera. Choose subjects who are flexible in their time to allow you enough access to create the images – not rushing you or preventing you from getting all of the shots you need. Look for unique subjects or something unique within your subjects. How can you, through your camera, grab the viewer's attention and give him/her a chance to see a deeper story than is on the surface.

I expect excellent prints and negatives at this point!!! Find the right settings and lighting. Use composition well to enhance your images. And take advantage of contrast filters, dodging and burning, and/or split-filtering.

You will need to have 5 prints (8x10") for our critique and to turn in for grading. I expect all 5 of your images to work together in theme and/or concept. You will turn in all of your negatives and/or contact sheets (at least 3 usable rolls worth) along with your final prints.

Due Date: Wednesday, 5 November