Same subject different ways:

I often hear from people that they are not happy with the photographs they get. The first thing I ask them is, "if you see something you really want to capture how many photographs do you take of that subject?"

When you are just getting started in photography, or you need to get out of a rut, a good exercise is to force yourself to shoot in ways that are not intuitive. We all are predisposed to repeat ourselves in common situations, but this repetition can squash creative energy if one doesn't step out of their comfort zone every now and then.

This first project deals with picking a *stationary* subject you can move around (meaning, YOU can move around the object – the object itself should not move). It can be anything you choose, but try to pick something that is varied enough to get dynamic images. Challenge yourself by photographing the same subject from different perspectives. By capturing a subject from differing angles and methods of composition the photographer influences how an audience interacts with and interprets the photograph.

The way a photograph is read by a viewer is based on many factors. A few of these factors are composition, tone, and subject matter. When you look at the attached images be aware of how each of them are changed by simply changing the angle of view and distance from the subject. Although people tend to think of photos as factual they are all expressions of your own biases. The choices you make when you choose to capture something will greatly affect the feel of the finished image. One of the only rules for this project is that you should move completely around the subject.

Some ideas of things to vary (by no means a comprehensive list):

- Your closeness/distance to the subject
- The time of day you photograph the subject
- The angle you photograph the subject from (low/high/etc)
- The depth of focus (controlled by the aperture)
- The shutter speed

Some other things to think to think about:

- Is there a horizon line? How is the camera oriented to it?
- When you move around your subject how does the subject matter behind it affect the way the image reads?
- How does depth of field to change the mood?
- What happens when the focus shifts from foreground to background, or the entire subject is out of focus?
- How does the lighting change as you move around your subject?
- How does your distance from the subject change the feel of the image?
- What happens to the mood if the camera is tilted?
- How does moving the subject out of the center change the feel of the resultant image?

Grading: For the assignment shoot at least 50 images of your chosen subject. Your images should illustrate how the mood or "feel" of photographs can be changed by the way the photographer chooses to capture it. Your grade will be based upon your technical proficiency in capturing your images, and how well you followed the criteria listed above. See syllabus for specific grading criteria.