

# **SIMS 202 PHOTO PROJECT – Overview**

## **August 29, 2002**

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### **1. Introduction**

At the suggestion of Dean Hal Varian, we are adding an innovative hands-on project for you and your colleagues in SIMS 202 Information Organization and Retrieval. The project entails the documentation of life at SIMS and UC Berkeley using small, inexpensive digital cameras by teams of students, and the annotation and retrieval of these photos within the Flamenco browser (developed by Marti Hearst and her students). You and your Project Group will design application use scenarios for the web-based photo database you will create, and develop and refine metadata descriptors for your photos. Some of you may choose to develop retrieval applications for the photo database as well in the second half of the course. In the SIMS 202 Photo Project you and your Project Group will:

- Develop an ongoing resource for SIMS (an annotated photo database) that can be used for internal research and teaching, as well for external promotional and informational purposes
- Experience the actual process of information organization and retrieval (especially as regards metadata creation and use)
- Work in small, focused teams performing a variety of tasks in image acquisition, cataloging, and application design

### **2. Project Requirements**

The Photo Project has a few simple, but important requirements:

#### **Create engaging and useful application scenarios and photos about life at SIMS**

The photos you take and the applications you will design to use them should document life at SIMS in a way that will be interesting and useful to you, your colleagues, and visitors to the SIMS external web site.

#### **Create a shared, reusable resource of annotated photos**

All photos will be stored in one directory. Design your metadata such that all photos would be accessible from all applications, and not only for the needs of your particular application, but also for the reusability of your photos and metadata.

**Protect people's privacy**

If you photograph a clearly identifiable person or persons and intend to use the photo, make sure to get a signed release form.

**3. Project Phases**

You will be receiving detailed assignments over the course of the project. What follows below is an overview of the major phases of the Photo Project.

**Photo Use Scenario – Application Idea (Assignment 2)**

With the premise of an existing collection of annotated photos (all the photos the entire class will take during the project), you will brainstorm and storyboard a web-based application that will make use of a database of annotated photos.

You will develop user scenarios of how the application works, how the user experiences it, and how it can accomplish the goals of making life at SIMS easier, more enjoyable, and more accessible to the outside world.

**Take Photos**

With the goals of your application and the overall goals of the class project in mind, you will take photos of SIMS and life at UC Berkeley and upload them to a common folder for everybody to use and see.

Every group is required to take at least 10 pictures per person in the project group.

All photos will have to be uploaded by September 12.

**Photo Metadata Design (Assignment 3)**

Having your application and the overall project goals in mind, you will design a suitable metadata framework to annotate the photos in the collection.

You will get hands-on experience in creating a photo classification and use it to annotate photos yourself.

**Flamenco Browser (Assignment 4)**

Having a collection of photos and a metadata framework to describe them, we now want to make those photos more accessible for students to browse and search.

You will integrate your photo classifications and annotated photos into the Flamenco browser, a faceted web-based information access user interface.

For a preview of the Flamenco interface and more information, see:  
<http://bailando.sims.berkeley.edu/flamenco.html>

### **Project Presentations**

In a special class session, your group will present your application ideas, metadata frameworks, and annotated photos (using the Flamenco browser) to your fellow students.

Each group will have about 10 minutes to present their innovative work.

### **Photo Project Review (Assignment 5)**

In a final assignment, we will ask you to reflect on the experience going through some of the stages of creating an information organization system and identify weaknesses and strengths in your current approaches.

**Since this project is offered for the first time in this class, we would like to get a lot of feedback and ideas from you. Feel free to comment on what you enjoyed and more importantly, what you didn't. We hope to hear from you!**

**Questions? Comments?**

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