

Shea Zmerzlikar
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Flow Visualization
Cloud Project Write-up.

This project was relatively non-labor intensive compared to the "Get Wet" assignment. The project as described by the syllabus was to capture a striking image of cloud formations within the sky while adding a brief description and skewT diagram to compliment the image. Being a film student, my thought process for all projects within this class are solely started with an artistic approach to the objective. Nothing about the "Cloud 1" assignment required too much thought as to what I wanted to capture, but there were some details about the photo that I would like to address specifically in order to claim some kind of reasoning to the artistic choice.

Firstly, I would like to address the time and setting in which I took the photograph. The Tuesday before the assignment was due we all left after our lecture and I realized that the window for a decent image of cloud formations was closing as the weather forecast for the following days called for overcast skies and possibly snow. With this in mind, my colleagues and I took turns pointing my camera towards the sky to snap and preserve evidence of its map of formations. As my fellow classmates, satisfied with their taken images, handed the camera back to me, I began to notice that none of their images contained an actual shot of the sun within the frame. I also noticed that there was an opportunity to shoot the sun through the thin layer of what I now know was a cirrus or cirrocumulus cloud formation. The clouds let a nice amount of light through to where needed to close down my iris a lot so I was still was able to get a lot of the frame in focus even having focus on the sky at infinity (you'll notice the trees are in sharp focus). After I found the place, time, and settings for the photo I simply snapped the shot but with composition in mind. Being a cinematographer, my main concern when using any lens is nice composition. This is where the trees come in. I could have just snapped a nice image of the sky, but it needed more. The trees add a nice aesthetic quality to the image as they guide your eye to different parts of the frame and allow you to see more of the image in depth. After snapping the image I did minor adjusting just using the iphoto application on my laptop, by upping contrast, sharpening up the details, and turning down the color temperature.

All in all I love the assignments because it allows many of the students to have full creative control. The hard part for me and my fellow filmmakers alike (I hope I'm not the only one), is the science of the projects. I can honestly say I still know very little about clouds and science behind it all is still somewhat hard to grasp, (like the skewT diagrams). Although, in the future I look forward to learning more about physics to help apply in it to what is visually possible through the lens.