



Overview

This assignment focuses on mastering the use of Neutral Density (ND), Graduated Neutral Density (GND), and Polariser filters in photography. By understanding how these filters affect exposure and color, you will enhance your ability to create stunning images in various lighting conditions.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the function and application of ND filters in long exposure photography.
- Learn how to effectively use GND filters to balance exposure in landscape photography.
- Master the use of polarising filters to enhance colors and reduce reflections.

Related Reading

Before you start, read these related blog posts to deepen your understanding:

What Do Camera Lens Filters Do	Are Camera Uv Filters Worth It	Filters
Nd Filters	Polariser Guide	

Before You Shoot

- Select a location with a variety of lighting conditions such as landscapes or water bodies.
- Gather ND, GND, and polariser filters compatible with your lens size.
- Check your camera's battery level and memory card space to ensure you can shoot extensively.
- Familiarize yourself with the filter attachment process and practice mounting them on your lens.
- Set your camera to manual mode to have full control over exposure settings.

Assignment Tasks

1. Capture a waterfall using a 6-stop ND filter at f/11, 2s, ISO 100 in manual mode to create a silky water effect.
2. Photograph a sunset with a GND filter at f/8, 1/125s, ISO 200 in manual mode to balance the bright sky with the darker land.
3. Take a landscape shot with a polariser at f/5.6, 1/250s, ISO 400 in aperture priority mode to enhance the colors of the sky and reduce reflections.
4. Shoot a cityscape with a 10-stop ND filter at f/16, 30s, ISO 50 in manual mode to capture light trails from moving vehicles at night.
5. Create a dramatic seascape using a GND filter at f/8, 1/60s, ISO 100 in manual mode to achieve a well-exposed horizon and foreground.
6. Experiment with a polariser while photographing a lake at f/4, 1/500s, ISO 200 in aperture priority mode to reduce glare and enhance water reflections.

Stretch Tasks

- Create a time-lapse video of a sunset using a 10-stop ND filter, adjusting exposure every few minutes to maintain proper brightness.
- Photograph a busy street scene with a combination of ND and polariser filters to capture motion blur and enhance color contrast.



DO / DON'T

DO	DON'T
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Do experiment with different filter combinations to discover unique effects.✓ Do practice adjusting your exposure settings when using filters to maintain proper exposure.✓ Do take test shots to ensure your composition and exposure are correct before finalizing your shot.✓ Do clean your filters regularly to avoid unwanted spots or haze in your images.✓ Do consider the time of day and weather conditions when planning your shots with filters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Don't forget to remove filters when not needed to avoid unnecessary lens flare.✗ Don't use filters in low light situations without adjusting your settings accordingly.✗ Don't stack too many filters without testing for vignetting or image quality degradation.✗ Don't ignore the impact of filters on autofocus; manual focus may be necessary in some situations.✗ Don't rush your shots; take the time to compose and adjust settings properly.

Reflection Questions

- How did using different filters change your perception of the scene?
- What challenges did you face when using ND, GND, and polariser filters?
- How can you apply the techniques learned from this assignment to future photography projects?
- What creative opportunities did you discover through the use of filters?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- When using ND filters, set your camera to f/8, 1/30s, ISO 100 in manual mode to achieve a balanced exposure while allowing for longer shutter speeds.
- For GND filters, use f/11, 1/60s, ISO 200 in manual mode to effectively balance the bright sky with the darker foreground.
- While using a polariser, set your camera to f/5.6, 1/125s, ISO 400 in aperture priority mode to allow more light through while enhancing colors.
- Adjust your white balance to 'Daylight' when shooting with polarising filters to maintain accurate color representation.
- Use spot metering mode when photographing landscapes with GND filters to ensure the correct exposure on the subject.

Creative:

- Experiment with different ND filter strengths (e.g., 3-stop, 6-stop) to see how they impact motion blur in water or clouds.
- Use GND filters creatively to compose images with dramatic skies and well-exposed foregrounds.
- Incorporate polarising filters to capture vibrant colors in foliage and reduce glare from water surfaces.
- Try stacking filters (ND and polariser) to create unique effects, but be mindful of vignetting.
- Explore the use of ND filters during golden hour to extend exposure times and capture smooth, ethereal landscapes.