Overview

This assignment focuses on understanding and utilizing histograms to assess exposure in your photographs. By mastering histogram readings and exposure adjustments, you'll enhance your ability to capture well-exposed images in various lighting conditions.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the components of a histogram and what they indicate about exposure.
- Learn to adjust exposure using priority modes for optimal results.
- Develop the ability to evaluate and correct exposure issues in real-time.

Related Reading

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

What Is Dynamic Range In Photography	Exposure Bracketing A Guide For Photographers	

Before You Shoot

- Familiarize yourself with your camera's histogram display settings.
- Set your camera to aperture priority mode or shutter priority mode.
- Fix your ISO at 200 to maintain consistent exposure sensitivity.
- Choose a variety of lighting environments for testing, such as bright sunlight and low-light settings.
- Ensure your camera's battery is charged and memory card is empty to avoid interruptions.

Assignment Tasks

1. Use aperture priority mode at f/4 with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera set shutter speed, and capture a landscape scene. Analyze the histogram for exposure accuracy.
2. Select shutter priority mode at 1/1000s with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera choose the aperture, and photograph a fast-moving subject. Review the histogram for any clipping.
3. Capture a portrait using aperture priority mode at f/2.8 with ISO 200 fixed, and check the histogram to ensure the subject is well-exposed without losing highlight details.
4. Use shutter priority mode at 1/250s with ISO 200 fixed, photographing a child playing in the park. Evaluate the histogram for proper exposure in bright sunlight.
5. Find a low-light environment and use aperture priority mode at f/5.6 with ISO 200 fixed. Let the camera adjust shutter speed and analyze the histogram for noise and exposure.
6. Photograph a sunset using shutter priority mode at 1/60s with ISO 200 fixed. Let the camera set aperture and check the histogram for highlight retention.

Stretch Tasks

- Experiment with multiple subjects in varying light conditions, using both aperture and shutter priority modes, and compare the histograms to determine which settings worked best.
- Create a series of images with intentional underexposure and overexposure, using priority modes, to study how the histogram reflects these exposures.

DO / DON'T

DO

- ✓ Do check the histogram after each shot to learn from your exposures.
- ✓ Do adjust exposure compensation as needed based on histogram readings.
- ✓ Do experiment with different priority modes to understand their effects.
- ✓ Do shoot in RAW format to preserve detail for post-processing.
- ✓ Do take notes on your camera settings and histogram results for each shot.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't rely solely on the camera's LCD screen for exposure judgment; always check the histogram.
- ✗ Don't use manual mode for this assignment; focus on priority modes.
- ✗ Don't ignore clipping on the histogram; adjust your settings accordingly.
- ✗ Don't shoot without fixing your ISO; use a consistent value for reliable exposure.
- ✗ Don't forget to consider the scene's lighting conditions before shooting.

Reflection Questions

- How did the histogram readings change with different lighting conditions?
- What adjustments did you find most effective when your histogram showed clipping?
- In what ways did using priority mode affect your creative choices while shooting?
- How did the exposure of your images compare when using aperture priority versus shutter priority modes?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Pay attention to the histogram display after each shot to evaluate exposure.
- Adjust exposure compensation if the histogram shows clipping on either end.
- Use the camera's live view mode to see the histogram in real-time while composing shots.
- Understand the importance of shadow and highlight details in your histogram.
- Experiment with different lighting conditions to see how they affect your histogram readings.

Creative:

- Use depth of field creatively by selecting a wide aperture in aperture priority mode.
- Incorporate motion by using a fast shutter speed in shutter priority mode.
- Experiment with backlighting and analyze how it impacts your histogram.
- Capture scenes with varying textures and colors to observe how they affect exposure.
- Try shooting in high contrast scenes and use the histogram to find the perfect exposure balance.