



Overview

This assignment teaches you how to manipulate aperture and depth of field to control what is in focus in your photographs. By experimenting with different apertures and distances, you'll learn how to emphasize your subjects and create compelling images.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the relationship between aperture settings and depth of field.
- Experiment with shallow and deep depth of field in various photographic scenarios.
- Develop skills in using aperture priority mode to achieve desired focus effects.

Related Reading

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

[What Is Depth Of Field](#)

[What Is Aperture In Photography](#)

Before You Shoot

- Choose a subject that can benefit from either shallow or deep depth of field.
- Select a location with diverse elements to test focus and background clarity.
- Set your camera to aperture priority mode (A/Av) with ISO fixed at 200.
- Familiarize yourself with the lens you are using and its maximum aperture.
- Prepare your composition before adjusting the aperture settings.

Assignment Tasks

1. Shoot a portrait using aperture priority mode at f/2.8 with ISO 200 fixed, focusing on the subject's eye to achieve a shallow depth of field.
2. Capture a landscape scene using aperture priority mode at f/11 with ISO 200 fixed, ensuring both the foreground and background are sharp.
3. Photograph a street scene with a busy background using aperture priority mode at f/4 with ISO 200 fixed, isolating a subject in the foreground.
4. Take a close-up of a flower using aperture priority mode at f/2.0 with ISO 200 fixed, highlighting the petal details while blurring the background.
5. Create an architectural shot using aperture priority mode at f/8 with ISO 200 fixed, ensuring all lines and details are in focus.
6. Experiment with a macro shot using aperture priority mode at f/5.6 with ISO 200 fixed, focusing on a small detail while allowing the surrounding area to gradually blur.

Stretch Tasks

- Combine shallow and deep depth of field in a single image by capturing a scene with both foreground and background subjects at different apertures, using aperture priority mode.
- Create a series of images that tell a story, utilizing different depth of field techniques in each shot while maintaining a consistent subject.



DO / DON'T

DO	DON'T
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Do experiment with different aperture settings to see their effects on depth of field.✓ Do use focus points to direct the viewer's attention in your composition.✓ Do practice shooting in various lighting conditions to understand how depth of field changes.✓ Do review your images to analyze how depth of field affects the overall message.✓ Do take notes on each shot's settings and results for future reference.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Don't rely solely on the widest aperture; explore various settings.✗ Don't forget to check your focus points before shooting.✗ Don't assume all subjects require a shallow depth of field; analyze each situation.✗ Don't rush your compositions; take time to set up your shot carefully.✗ Don't ignore background elements; they can significantly impact your image.

Reflection Questions

- How did the choice of aperture affect the story you wanted to tell in your images?
- What challenges did you face when trying to control depth of field?
- In what situations did you find shallow depth of field most effective?
- How did your understanding of depth of field evolve through this assignment?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use aperture settings between f/1.4 and f/16 to see the effects on depth of field.
- Utilize the distance from the subject to alter the depth of field.
- Experiment with different focal lengths to observe changes in depth of field.
- Consider the size of the print/viewing distance when evaluating depth of field.
- Use focus points deliberately to control sharpness in your composition.

Creative:

- Select a shallow depth of field for portraits to create a pleasing background blur.
- Use a deep depth of field for landscapes to keep the entire scene in focus.
- Incorporate foreground elements to enhance the depth perception in your images.
- Play with bokeh effects to create artistic elements in your background.
- Focus on storytelling by strategically selecting what parts of the image are sharp.