



Overview

This assignment teaches photographers how to effectively use different metering modes in various shooting scenarios to achieve desired exposure. By practicing with Matrix, Centre-weighted, and Spot metering, students will learn to control their exposure settings based on scene conditions.

Learning Objectives

- Understand when to use Matrix, Centre-weighted, and Spot metering modes.
- Learn to adjust exposure compensation based on scene brightness.
- Practice verifying exposure using histograms and highlight warnings.

Related Reading

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

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

Before You Shoot

- Ensure your camera is set to either Aperture Priority (A/Av) or Shutter Priority (S/Tv) mode.
- Set your ISO to a fixed value of 200.
- Review the metering modes available on your camera.
- Familiarize yourself with how to access and change the metering mode on your camera.
- Choose a shooting location with varied lighting conditions.

Assignment Tasks

1. Capture a landscape scene using Matrix metering in Aperture Priority mode at f/8 with ISO 200 fixed, allowing the camera to select shutter speed.
2. Photograph a friend in natural light using Centre-weighted metering in Aperture Priority mode at f/4 with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera adjust shutter speed.
3. Take a photo of a subject in a backlit situation using Spot metering in Aperture Priority mode at f/2.8 with ISO 200 fixed, allowing the camera to set shutter speed.
4. Shoot a scene with high contrast, such as a snowy landscape, using Matrix metering in Shutter Priority mode at 1/250s with ISO 200 fixed, and observe the exposure adjustments.
5. Create a series of portraits using Centre-weighted metering in Shutter Priority mode at 1/125s with ISO 200 fixed, varying the exposure compensation to see the effects.
6. Experiment with capturing shadows in a dimly lit area using Spot metering in Shutter Priority mode at 1/60s with ISO 200 fixed, allowing the camera to select aperture.

Stretch Tasks

- Challenge yourself to use Spot metering for a series of photos in a complex lighting environment, adjusting your exposure compensation based on the scene.
- Create a photographic story that highlights the differences in exposure using all three metering modes in various lighting conditions throughout the day.



DO / DON'T

DO	DON'T
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Do practice using each metering mode in different lighting conditions.✓ Do adjust exposure compensation to achieve the desired brightness in your images.✓ Do rely on histograms to ensure your highlights are not clipped.✓ Do take multiple shots at different exposures to compare results.✓ Do review your images and analyze how the chosen metering mode affected the final exposure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Don't use Manual mode for this assignment; stick to priority modes.✗ Don't assume the camera's meter is always correct; adjust as necessary.✗ Don't forget to check the histogram after taking a shot.✗ Don't ignore the effects of different backgrounds on exposure.✗ Don't rush your adjustments; take time to observe how changes affect exposure.

Reflection Questions

- How did each metering mode affect your exposure in different shooting scenarios?
- What challenges did you encounter when using Spot metering, and how did you overcome them?
- In what situations did you find Centre-weighted metering most beneficial?
- Reflect on how exposure compensation changed the final outcomes of your images; what did you learn?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use Matrix metering for general scenes with even lighting.
- Apply Centre-weighted metering for portraits or balanced lighting.
- Utilize Spot metering for high-contrast scenes to meter the subject accurately.
- Adjust exposure compensation by +1 to +2 EV for bright scenes and -1 to -2 EV for dark scenes.
- Check your images using the histogram to avoid clipping highlights.

Creative:

- Experiment with depth of field by changing your aperture settings in Aperture Priority mode.
- Seek out challenging lighting situations to test your metering skills, such as backlit subjects.
- Try metering off different elements within the frame using Spot metering to see how exposure changes.
- Use Centre-weighted metering to create more flattering portraits by ensuring the subject is well-exposed.
- Incorporate reflections or shadows in your compositions to explore how they affect metering.