Overview

This assignment focuses on understanding and utilizing histograms to evaluate exposure in your photographs. You will learn to adjust your camera settings using aperture or shutter priority modes while keeping ISO fixed to achieve optimal exposure.

Learning Objectives

- Understand how to read and interpret histograms for exposure evaluation
- Learn to effectively use aperture or shutter priority modes while maintaining a fixed ISO
- Develop the ability to adjust exposure settings based on histogram feedback

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](#)	[Histogram Explained](#)
[Exposure Review](#)	[Tonal Balance](#)	

Before You Shoot

- ■ Familiarize yourself with how to display the histogram on your camera
- ■ Set your camera to aperture priority (A/Av) or shutter priority (S/Tv) mode
- ■ Fix your ISO setting to 200
- ■ Choose a well-lit location with a variety of subjects
- ■ Ensure your camera battery is fully charged and memory card has space

Assignment Tasks

1. Use aperture priority mode at f/2.8 with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera set the shutter speed, then capture images of a portrait subject and analyze the histogram for exposure accuracy.

2. Select a fast-moving subject in a park and use shutter priority mode at 1/500s with ISO 200 fixed, allowing the camera to adjust aperture. Review the histogram to ensure motion is frozen without overexposure.

3. Set up a landscape scene during sunrise using aperture priority mode at f/11 with ISO 200 fixed. After taking the shot, check the histogram to evaluate exposure across the entire scene.

4. Capture a series of images of a still life arrangement using shutter priority mode at 1/125s with ISO 200 fixed. Analyze how the histogram changes with different lighting setups.

5. In a low-light environment, use aperture priority mode at f/4 with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera adjust shutter speed. Assess the histogram to determine if the image is well-exposed or requires adjustments.

6. Photograph an indoor scene using shutter priority mode at 1/60s with ISO 200 fixed. After reviewing the histogram, adjust your composition or lighting to improve exposure if necessary.

Stretch Tasks

- Create a series of images where you intentionally overexpose and underexpose your shots while monitoring the histogram, then discuss the effects on the final images.
- Try capturing a dynamic scene at different times of day, using both aperture and shutter priority modes, and analyze how the histograms differ across lighting conditions.

DO / DON'T

DO	DON'T
✓ Do check the histogram after each shot to evaluate exposure accuracy.	✗ Don't ignore the histogram; it is a crucial tool for assessing exposure.
✓ Do adjust your exposure compensation based on histogram feedback when necessary.	✗ Don't use manual mode with all exposure settings specified; stick to priority modes.
✓ Do experiment with different aperture settings to see how it affects the histogram.	✗ Don't assume the image on the LCD screen accurately reflects exposure without checking the histogram.
✓ Do review and analyze the histogram in both bright and dim lighting conditions.	✗ Don't be afraid to take multiple shots with different settings to understand their impact on the histogram.
✓ Do practice shooting in various environments to see how histograms respond to different lighting situations.	✗ Don't forget to adjust your settings if the histogram indicates overexposure or underexposure.

Reflection Questions

- What patterns did you notice in the histograms as you adjusted your settings?
- How did using priority modes change your approach to exposure compared to manual settings?
- In what scenarios did you find the histogram most helpful for evaluating exposure?
- What challenges did you face while interpreting histograms, and how did you overcome them?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Understand the shape of a histogram and what it indicates about exposure
- Learn the difference between overexposed, underexposed, and correctly exposed images
- Practice adjusting exposure compensation based on histogram readings
- Explore the impact of different aperture settings on depth of field as indicated by the histogram
- Identify common exposure pitfalls and how to avoid them through histogram analysis

Creative:

- Experiment with different aperture settings to create varying depths of field and observe histogram changes
- Use shutter priority mode to capture motion and analyze the histogram for exposure
- Consider how lighting conditions affect histogram readings and adjust your shooting strategy accordingly
- Incorporate creative compositions while monitoring histogram feedback
- Challenge yourself to capture a range of subjects under different lighting to see how histograms vary