Overview

This assignment teaches students how to effectively use different metering modes in photography to achieve accurate exposure based on the scene's lighting conditions. By practicing with Matrix, Centre-weighted, and Spot metering, students will learn to make deliberate exposure adjustments.

Learning Objectives

- Understand when to use Matrix, Centre-weighted, and Spot metering modes.
- Apply exposure compensation effectively based on scene brightness.
- Utilize the histogram and highlight warnings to verify exposure.

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

- ■ Familiarize yourself with your camera's metering mode settings.
- ■ Set your camera to either Aperture Priority mode or Shutter Priority mode.
- ■ Fix the ISO at 200 for consistent exposure results.
- ■ Choose a variety of scenes with different lighting conditions (bright, dark, backlit).
- ■ Ensure your camera is set to display the histogram and highlight warnings.

Assignment Tasks

1. Use Matrix metering to photograph a well-lit landscape scene with Aperture Priority mode at f/8 and ISO 200 fixed, allowing the camera to set the shutter speed.

2. Select Centre-weighted metering to capture a portrait of a subject against a bright background, using Aperture Priority mode at f/4 and ISO 200 fixed.

3. Take a photograph of a backlit subject using Spot metering to ensure the subject is correctly exposed, setting your camera to Shutter Priority mode at 1/250s with ISO 200 fixed.

4. Shoot a scene with bright snow using Matrix metering and apply +1.5 EV exposure compensation in Aperture Priority mode at f/5.6, ISO 200 fixed.

5. Photograph a dark subject on a dimly lit background using Spot metering and apply -1 EV exposure compensation in Shutter Priority mode at 1/60s with ISO 200 fixed.

6. Capture an indoor scene with mixed lighting using Centre-weighted metering, setting your camera to Aperture Priority mode at f/2.8 and ISO 200 fixed.

Stretch Tasks

- Create a series of images using all three metering modes in varying lighting conditions and analyze which mode worked best for each scene.
- Experiment with manual exposure settings while still using the metering modes as a guide, comparing results with the priority modes.

DO / DON'T

DO	DON'T
✓ Do familiarize yourself with the metering modes available on your camera before shooting.	✗ Don't rely solely on Matrix metering for every scene; assess the situation first.
✓ Do practice adjusting exposure compensation based on the scene's brightness.	✗ Don't forget to check for blown highlights using the histogram.
✓ Do refer to the histogram after each shot to ensure that you are protecting highlights.	✗ Don't use Auto mode for this assignment; focus on priority modes.
✓ Do use Spot metering for subjects that are significantly lighter or darker than their surroundings.	✗ Don't ignore the effect of bright backgrounds on subject exposure.
✓ Do maintain a fixed ISO to reduce variability in exposure settings.	✗ Don't assume the camera's meter is always correct; use your judgment.

Reflection Questions

- How did the choice of metering mode affect the overall exposure of your images?
- What challenges did you encounter when using Spot metering in high-contrast situations?
- In what scenarios did exposure compensation significantly impact your results?
- How can you apply what you learned about metering modes to future photography projects?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use Matrix metering for general scenes to capture balanced exposure.
- Select Centre-weighted metering for portrait subjects to ensure the subject is correctly exposed.
- Employ Spot metering for high-contrast situations to meter directly off the subject.
- Experiment with exposure compensation to adjust for overly bright or dark scenes.
- Check the histogram after each shot to confirm that highlights are not clipped.

Creative:

- Explore creative compositions by choosing subjects in various lighting environments.
- Use Centre-weighted metering to emphasize the subject in a portrait while managing the background exposure.
- Utilize Spot metering to capture details in shadowy areas of a scene.
- Experiment with exposure compensation to create mood in high-contrast scenes.
- Use the histogram to guide creative decisions regarding exposure adjustments.