Overview

This assignment teaches you how to control depth of field (DoF) using aperture settings in photography. By experimenting with different apertures and subject distances, you'll learn to isolate subjects or achieve sharpness throughout your composition.

Learning Objectives

- Understand how aperture affects depth of field.
- Learn to use aperture priority mode for depth of field control.
- Experiment with subject distance and focal length to manipulate depth of field.

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 location with varied subjects (e.g., portrait, landscape, architecture).
- Set your camera to aperture priority mode (A/Av).
- Fix your ISO to 200 for consistent exposure.
- Bring a tripod for stability when using slower shutter speeds.
- Familiarize yourself with your lens's maximum and minimum aperture settings.

Assignment Tasks

1. Capture a portrait using aperture priority mode at f/2.8 with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera set shutter speed to blur the background.
2. Photograph a landscape scene using aperture priority mode at f/16 with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera adjust shutter speed for maximum sharpness.
3. Take a close-up shot of a flower at f/4 using aperture priority mode, ensuring the background is softly blurred.
4. Shoot a group of people using f/5.6 in aperture priority mode to keep everyone in focus, while still blurring the background.
5. Create an image of a busy street scene using f/8, allowing for a sharper depth of field that includes elements in both foreground and background.
6. Experiment with a shallow depth of field on an object placed on a table, using f/2.8 to focus on the object while blurring the table surface.

Stretch Tasks

- Create a series of images showcasing the same subject with varying apertures (e.g., f/2.8, f/5.6, f/11) to illustrate the impact of depth of field.
- Use a wide-angle lens at f/4 to capture an architectural shot that emphasizes both foreground details and background context.

DO / DON'T

DO

✓ Do experiment with different apertures to see the effect on your images.

✓ Do focus on the subject's eyes in portraits for optimal sharpness.

✓ Do use hyperfocal distance calculations for landscapes to maximize depth of field.

✓ Do pay attention to the background elements that may distract from your subject.

✓ Do practice taking multiple shots at varying apertures to compare results.

DON'T

✗ Don't rely solely on the same aperture for every shot; change it based on your subject and desired effect.

✗ Don't forget to consider the background when choosing your aperture; it plays a crucial role in composition.

✗ Don't shoot in manual mode for this assignment; use aperture priority mode instead.

✗ Don't assume that a shallow depth of field is always better; choose based on the story you want to tell.

✗ Don't neglect the importance of distance from your subject when attempting to control depth of field.

Reflection Questions

- How did changing the aperture influence the mood of your photographs?
- What challenges did you face in achieving the desired depth of field?
- How did the background elements affect the overall composition of your images?
- In what situations might you prefer a shallow depth of field versus a deep depth of field?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use a wide aperture (e.g., f/2.8) to achieve a shallow depth of field.
- Use a narrow aperture (e.g., f/16) to maximize depth of field.
- Keep your subject at different distances to see how DoF changes.
- Experiment with different focal lengths to observe changes in perspective and depth.
- Utilize hyperfocal distance for landscapes to keep both foreground and background sharp.

Creative:

- Choose a subject that stands out against a blurred background for a dramatic effect.
- Incorporate leading lines into your composition while controlling DoF.
- Try shooting the same scene with both shallow and deep depth of field for comparison.
- Use depth of field to create narrative in your images by directing focus to a specific element.
- Explore unique angles and perspectives to enhance the visual impact of your depth of field choices.