



Overview

This assignment focuses on the principles of minimalist photography, encouraging photographers to capture simplicity through negative space, geometric composition, and intentional subject isolation. By practicing these techniques, students will learn to create images that convey calmness and clarity.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the concept of negative space and its role in minimalist photography.
- Develop skills in composing images using geometry, lines, and patterns.
- Learn to isolate subjects effectively to enhance visual impact.

Related Reading

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

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| <u>What Is Minimalist Photography</u> | <u>What Is Negative Space In Photography</u> | |
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Before You Shoot

- Select a single subject that embodies simplicity and can stand out against a clean background.
- Identify locations or settings that offer ample negative space for composition.
- Choose a time of day with soft lighting conditions to avoid harsh shadows.
- Prepare your camera in aperture priority mode with ISO set to 200.
- Familiarize yourself with various angles and perspectives to find unique compositions.

Assignment Tasks

1. Photograph a single object against a plain background, ensuring that at least 70% of the frame is negative space. Use aperture priority mode at f/4 with ISO 200 fixed.
2. Capture a scene that includes strong lines or geometric shapes. Frame the subject using leading lines, ensuring they draw attention to it. Use aperture priority mode at f/5.6 with ISO 200 fixed.
3. Find and photograph an architectural structure that embodies minimalism. Isolate the structure using negative space, and use aperture priority mode at f/8 with ISO 200 fixed.
4. Create a still life arrangement of three objects with a limited color palette. Position them to leave ample negative space and shoot in aperture priority mode at f/3.5 with ISO 200 fixed.
5. Take a photograph of a person in a vast open space. Use negative space to convey isolation and depth while using aperture priority mode at f/2.8 with ISO 200 fixed.
6. Explore a natural landscape and photograph a single tree or rock formation. Frame the subject to emphasize its solitude within the surrounding space. Use aperture priority mode at f/4 with ISO 200 fixed.

Stretch Tasks

- Create a series of three images that each tell a different story using the same subject in various settings, focusing on the interaction between the subject and negative space.
- Develop a photo essay that captures minimalist themes in urban environments, utilizing composition and subject isolation to emphasize simplicity.



DO / DON'T

DO

- ✓ Do focus on one clear subject to avoid clutter in your images.
- ✓ Do utilize negative space strategically to enhance the composition.
- ✓ Do experiment with different angles and perspectives to find the most effective composition.
- ✓ Do keep your color palette limited to maintain a minimalist aesthetic.
- ✓ Do assess each element in the frame to ensure it serves the overall idea.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't overcrowd your frame with multiple subjects or distracting elements.
- ✗ Don't use overly complex backgrounds that detract from the main subject.
- ✗ Don't disregard lighting; avoid harsh shadows that can complicate the scene.
- ✗ Don't choose subjects that lack visual interest or clarity.
- ✗ Don't forget to consider the story your image conveys through its composition.

Reflection Questions

- How does negative space influence the mood and impact of your photographs?
- In what ways did simplifying your composition change your approach to photography?
- What challenges did you face in isolating your subject, and how did you overcome them?
- How can minimalist principles be applied to different photography genres?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use aperture priority mode to control depth of field, allowing for a sharp subject against a blurred background.
- Ensure white balance is set accurately to maintain color consistency in your images.
- Use a tripod to maintain stability and precision in your composition.
- Experiment with different focal lengths to explore how they affect the perception of space.
- Keep the camera level to avoid distorted lines and maintain symmetry in your compositions.

Creative:

- Seek out geometric shapes and lines in your environment that can guide the viewer's eye.
- Incorporate a limited color palette to emphasize simplicity in your images.
- Use patterns and textures minimally to avoid distracting from the main subject.
- Focus on storytelling by considering how the subject and negative space interact.
- Create contrast between the subject and background to enhance visual clarity.