



Overview

This assignment focuses on understanding and applying white balance settings in photography to achieve accurate color representation and creative effects. Students will learn how to manipulate white balance in various lighting conditions to enhance their images.

Learning Objectives

- Identify different light sources and their corresponding color temperatures.
- Effectively use white balance settings to correct color casts in photographs.
- Experiment with creative white balance adjustments to achieve desired color effects.

Related Reading

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

What Is White Balance In Photography		
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Before You Shoot

- Familiarize yourself with your camera's white balance settings (Auto, Presets, Kelvin, Custom).
- Gather a grey card or ExpoDisc for setting custom white balance.
- Choose a consistent lighting environment (e.g., indoors, outdoors, shade).
- Set your camera to RAW format for flexible post-processing.
- Decide on the subject of your shoot, ensuring it has neutral tones for accurate white balance.

Assignment Tasks

1. Use aperture priority mode at f/5.6 with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera set shutter speed, and photograph a subject under tungsten lighting while adjusting the white balance to the tungsten preset.
2. Set your camera to shutter priority mode at 1/250s with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera set aperture, and capture a scene outdoors in shaded light, manipulating the white balance to the shade preset.
3. In a mixed lighting situation, use aperture priority mode at f/4 with ISO 200 fixed, allowing the camera to adjust shutter speed, and photograph your subject while balancing the white balance for the key light source.
4. Capture a portrait using custom white balance set with a grey card in aperture priority mode at f/2.8 with ISO 200 fixed, allowing the camera to set shutter speed, focusing on accurate skin tones.
5. Create a series of three identical shots of the same scene using auto white balance, daylight preset, and a custom Kelvin setting to compare results, shooting in aperture priority mode at f/8 with ISO 200 fixed.
6. Photograph a still life with colored gels over your light source, using shutter priority mode at 1/125s with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera choose the aperture, and intentionally adjust the white balance for artistic effect.

Stretch Tasks

- Create a time-lapse series of a sunset, adjusting white balance settings throughout to capture the changing colors, using aperture priority mode at f/8 with ISO 200 fixed.
- Conduct an experiment where you shoot the same subject under different lighting conditions (tungsten, fluorescent, daylight) and use various white balance settings to document the color changes.



DO / DON'T

DO	DON'T
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Do shoot in RAW format to allow for white balance adjustments in post-processing.✓ Do use a grey card for setting custom white balance in challenging lighting conditions.✓ Do experiment with different white balance presets to see their effects on color.✓ Do pay attention to the key light source when adjusting white balance in mixed lighting.✓ Do practice adjusting white balance in both camera settings and during post-processing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Don't rely solely on auto white balance in complex lighting situations.✗ Don't forget to check your white balance settings before shooting in different lighting conditions.✗ Don't ignore the impact of white balance on skin tones in portrait photography.✗ Don't use JPEG format if you plan to make significant adjustments to white balance later.✗ Don't set the white balance without first considering the color temperature of your light source.

Reflection Questions

- How does understanding white balance change your approach to shooting in different lighting conditions?
- What challenges did you face while adjusting white balance settings, and how did you overcome them?
- How does the color temperature of different light sources affect the mood of your photographs?
- In what ways can you use white balance creatively to enhance your storytelling in photography?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use a grey card to set a custom white balance for accurate color rendition.
- Understand how different light sources affect color temperature (e.g., tungsten vs. daylight).
- Experiment with Kelvin settings for precise control over color temperature.
- Learn the differences between various white balance presets and when to use them.
- Utilize the white balance eyedropper tool in post-processing for RAW files.

Creative:

- Experiment with warming or cooling your images by adjusting the white balance deliberately.
- Use mixed lighting conditions to create interesting color casts intentionally.
- Explore the effects of white balance on skin tones and portraits.
- Incorporate colored gels in front of lights and adjust white balance for creative effects.
- Create a series of images showcasing different white balance settings in the same scene.