



Overview

This assignment focuses on understanding and controlling depth of field in photography through the use of aperture settings. Students will learn how to manipulate aperture to achieve desired sharpness and blur in their images, enhancing storytelling through their photography.

Learning Objectives

- Understand how aperture affects depth of field.
- Experiment with different apertures to observe changes in sharpness and blur.
- Apply techniques for deliberate focus placement in various scenarios.

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

- Select a suitable lens that allows for a range of aperture settings.
- Choose a location with a variety of subjects (e.g., urban, nature, portraits).
- Ensure your camera is set to either Aperture Priority or Shutter Priority mode.
- Set your ISO to a fixed value of 200.
- Familiarize yourself with the depth of field scale on your lens (if available).

Assignment Tasks

1. Use aperture priority mode at f/2.8 with ISO 200 fixed, capturing a portrait where the subject is sharp and the background is blurred.
2. Set aperture priority mode to f/11 with ISO 200 fixed, photographing a landscape scene to achieve maximum sharpness from the foreground to the horizon.
3. Experiment with different apertures while shooting a flower; start at f/2.8 and gradually increase to f/16, documenting the changes in the background blur.
4. Select a busy urban environment and use aperture priority mode at f/4 with ISO 200 fixed to capture a candid street scene, ensuring that your subject is in sharp focus against a soft background.
5. Use aperture priority mode at f/5.6 with ISO 200 fixed to photograph a group of people, focusing on the nearest person's eye to ensure sharpness across all faces.
6. Capture a scene at a park using aperture priority mode at f/8 with ISO 200 fixed, experimenting with focus placement by concentrating on a nearby tree while allowing distant elements to blur.

Stretch Tasks

- Shoot a series of images at different apertures (f/2.8, f/5.6, f/8, f/11) in a single scene, then create a composite image showing the effect of depth of field.
- Develop a mini-project where you photograph the same subject with varying apertures and distances, presenting a narrative through your series.



DO / DON'T

DO	DON'T
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Do adjust your aperture to control the depth of field creatively.✓ Do focus on the nearest eye when photographing people to ensure sharpness.✓ Do use hyperfocal distance for landscape photography to maximize depth.✓ Do experiment with different subjects to see how depth of field affects them differently.✓ Do take notes on the aperture settings used and the resulting depth of field for each shot.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Don't shoot in manual mode with all settings specified; focus on priority modes.✗ Don't ignore the background; consider how it interacts with your subject.✗ Don't use a very high ISO without necessity, as it may introduce noise.✗ Don't be afraid to take multiple shots at different settings; experimentation is key.✗ Don't overlook the importance of composition when setting your depth of field.

Reflection Questions

- How does changing the aperture impact the story you are trying to tell in your photographs?
- What differences did you notice between shallow and deep depth of field in your shots?
- How did you choose your focus point, and what effect did it have on the final image?
- In what situations did you find shallow depth of field most effective, and why?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use aperture priority mode to control depth of field by adjusting f-stop values.
- Observe the effects of different focal lengths on depth of field.
- Experiment with subject distance to see how it influences depth of field.
- Learn about hyperfocal distance to maximize sharpness in landscapes.
- Use a tripod to stabilize your camera for precise focus adjustments.

Creative:

- Use shallow depth of field to isolate subjects and create a sense of intimacy.
- Experiment with deep depth of field for landscape shots to capture detail from foreground to background.
- Incorporate leading lines in your composition while controlling depth of field.
- Play with bokeh effects in out-of-focus areas to enhance the aesthetic of your images.
- Consider the emotional impact of sharp versus blurred backgrounds in your storytelling.