Overview

This assignment teaches you to master the exposure triangle by focusing on aperture and shutter speed in priority modes, allowing you to control depth of field and motion effectively while keeping ISO fixed. You will gain practical experience in achieving well-exposed images that preserve detail and set the desired mood.

Learning Objectives

- Understand how to utilize aperture priority and shutter priority modes effectively.
- Learn to fix ISO while allowing the camera to adjust for optimal exposure.
- Develop the ability to assess and adjust exposure settings based on lighting conditions.

Related Reading

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

What Is Exposure In Photography	What Is Iso In Photography	What Is Shutter Speed
What Is Depth Of Field	What Is Manual Exposure In Photography	What Is Dynamic Range In Photography

Before You Shoot

- ■ Choose a location with varied lighting conditions (e.g., sunny and shaded areas).
- ■ Set your camera to either Aperture Priority or Shutter Priority mode.
- ■ Fix your ISO to 200 to maintain consistent sensitivity.
- ■ Bring a tripod if shooting in low-light conditions to avoid camera shake.
- ■ Familiarize yourself with your camera's metering modes and histogram feature.

Assignment Tasks

1. Use aperture priority mode at f/2.8 with ISO 200 fixed, allowing the camera to set shutter speed while photographing a portrait in natural light.

2. Use shutter priority mode at 1/250s with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera set aperture while capturing a cyclist in motion.

3. Experiment with aperture priority mode set at f/5.6 and ISO 200 fixed to capture a landscape scene, focusing on both foreground and background detail.

4. Use shutter priority mode at 1/60s with ISO 200 fixed to photograph a waterfall, capturing the motion of the water while allowing the camera to set aperture.

5. Shoot a street scene using aperture priority mode at f/4 with ISO 200 fixed, allowing the camera to adjust shutter speed to achieve a well-exposed image.

6. Capture a moving subject at night using shutter priority mode set to 1/30s with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera select aperture for a balanced exposure.

Stretch Tasks

- Create a series of images that showcase varying depths of field using aperture priority mode, focusing on a single subject at different apertures.
- Document a fast-paced event (like a sports game) using shutter priority mode, experimenting with different shutter speeds to capture various types of motion.

DO / DON'T

DO	DON'T
✓ Do experiment with different aperture settings to observe their effect on depth of field.	✗ Don't shoot in full manual mode for this assignment; focus on priority modes.
✓ Do check your histogram after each shot to avoid clipping highlights.	✗ Don't forget to fix your ISO at 200 before starting your shoots.
✓ Do use exposure compensation when faced with challenging lighting situations.	✗ Don't ignore the histogram; it is a valuable tool for checking exposure.
✓ Do practice shooting in both aperture and shutter priority modes to become comfortable with both.	✗ Don't rush your shots; take time to compose and assess your settings.
✓ Do review your settings before each shot to ensure consistency.	✗ Don't lose sight of your creative vision while focusing solely on technical settings.

Reflection Questions

- How did the choice of aperture or shutter speed influence the emotional tone of your images?
- What challenges did you encounter while using priority modes, and how did you overcome them?
- In what scenarios did you find it necessary to use exposure compensation, and what were the results?
- How does understanding the exposure triangle enhance your ability to tell a story through photography?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use aperture priority mode to manipulate depth of field (e.g., f/2.8 for a blurred background).
- Use shutter priority mode to capture motion effectively (e.g., 1/500s to freeze action).
- Check the histogram after each shot to ensure highlights and shadows are not clipped.
- Experiment with different metering modes to see how they affect exposure.
- Use exposure compensation to adjust for tricky lighting scenarios.

Creative:

- Explore different aperture settings to see how they affect the mood of your images.
- Capture motion in dynamic scenes, like moving water or people, using shutter priority mode.
- Use depth of field creatively to isolate subjects from their backgrounds.
- Incorporate varying angles and perspectives to enhance the composition of your shots.
- Consider the emotional response you want to evoke and adjust your exposure settings accordingly.