Overview

This assignment focuses on mastering the exposure triangle by utilizing aperture and shutter priority modes with a fixed ISO. Participants will learn to control brightness, depth of field, and motion in their photographs, enhancing their ability to create compelling images.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the relationship between aperture, shutter speed, and ISO in the exposure triangle.
- Master the use of aperture priority and shutter priority modes for creative control.
- Gain skills in evaluating exposure through metering modes and histograms.

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

- Ensure your camera is set to either aperture priority (A/Av) or shutter priority (S/Tv) mode.
- Set ISO to a fixed value of 200.
- Identify a location with varied lighting conditions to challenge your exposure skills.
- Bring a tripod to stabilize your camera for longer exposure times if necessary.
- Familiarize yourself with your camera's metering modes and histogram display.

Assignment Tasks

1. Shoot a series of portraits using aperture priority mode at f/2.8 with ISO 200 fixed, allowing the camera to set shutter speed for depth of field control.

2. Capture a moving subject (like a bicycle or a runner) using shutter priority mode at 1/500s with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera adjust the aperture to freeze motion.

3. Select a busy street scene and use aperture priority mode at f/5.6 with ISO 200 fixed, allowing the camera to determine shutter speed to maintain sharpness.

4. Photograph a waterfall using shutter priority mode at 1/30s with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera set the aperture for a soft water effect.

5. Create a night scene using aperture priority mode at f/4 with ISO 200 fixed, allowing the camera to adjust shutter speed for proper exposure.

6. Explore a local park during golden hour using shutter priority mode at 1/250s with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera set the aperture to capture vibrant colors.

Stretch Tasks

- Experiment with bracketing exposures by taking multiple shots at different exposures using both priority modes to compare results.
- Create a time-lapse series of a sunset using shutter priority mode at 1/60s with ISO 200 fixed, adjusting the aperture as light decreases.

DO / DON'T

DO	DON'T
✓ Do experiment with different aperture settings to see how depth of field changes your images.	✗ Don't shoot in manual mode without using priority settings for this assignment.
✓ Do regularly check your camera's histogram to ensure you're capturing the full range of tones.	✗ Don't ignore the histogram; it's crucial for avoiding overexposed or underexposed images.
✓ Do adjust your metering mode according to the lighting conditions of your scene.	✗ Don't use automatic mode; this limits your understanding of exposure control.
✓ Do practice shooting in various environments to adapt your exposure settings dynamically.	✗ Don't forget to check the lighting conditions before shooting.
✓ Do keep notes on what settings work best for different types of scenes.	✗ Don't rely solely on auto settings; use your knowledge of the exposure triangle.

Reflection Questions

- How did using priority modes change your approach to exposure compared to manual shooting?
- What differences did you notice in depth of field when changing aperture settings?
- How did your understanding of the exposure triangle evolve through this assignment?
- What challenges did you face while trying to maintain correct exposure in different lighting conditions?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use aperture priority mode to control depth of field while letting the camera select shutter speed.
- Utilize shutter priority mode to freeze motion while allowing the camera to adjust aperture.
- Regularly check the histogram to avoid clipping highlights and shadows.
- Experiment with different metering modes based on your scene requirements.
- Understand the impact of changing light conditions on your exposure settings.

Creative:

- Explore how varying aperture affects the background blur (bokeh) in portraits.
- Capture fast-moving subjects using shutter priority to convey action.
- Use the exposure triangle to set the mood of your images, such as bright vs. moody.
- Experiment with different scenes at different times of day to see how light changes exposure.
- Incorporate foreground elements using a shallow depth of field to create depth in landscapes.