Overview

This assignment explores the concept of depth of field in photography, teaching you how to manipulate aperture settings to achieve desired levels of sharpness and blur in your images. By practicing specific tasks, you will learn to control what elements are in focus and how to effectively use depth of field to enhance your storytelling.

Learning Objectives

- Understand how aperture affects depth of field and sharpness in an image.
- Learn to isolate subjects using shallow depth of field.
- Experiment with deep depth of field for landscapes and architectural shots.

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

- ■ Choose a location with both a subject and a background you want to control.
- ■ Set your camera to aperture priority mode (A/Av).
- ■ Fix your ISO at 200 to maintain consistent exposure.
- ■ Bring a tripod if shooting in low light conditions to avoid camera shake.
- ■ Familiarize yourself with your lens' maximum and minimum aperture settings.

Assignment Tasks

1. Use aperture priority mode at f/2.8 with ISO 200 fixed, photographing a portrait to achieve a blurred background.

2. Capture a landscape scene using aperture priority mode at f/11 with ISO 200 fixed, ensuring both foreground and background are sharp.

3. Photograph a still life arrangement using aperture priority mode at f/4 with ISO 200 fixed, focusing on the nearest object while blurring the rest.

4. Shoot a street scene at f/5.6 in aperture priority mode with ISO 200 fixed, ensuring the subject is in focus while the background has some blur.

5. Use aperture priority mode at f/16 with ISO 200 fixed, taking a picture of an architectural structure to capture maximum detail from foreground to background.

6. Experiment with different distances by using aperture priority mode at f/8 with ISO 200 fixed, capturing flowers at varying distances to see how depth of field changes.

Stretch Tasks

- Create a series of portraits using both shallow and deep depth of field, comparing the emotional impact of each.
- Plan and execute a mini-project focusing on a theme that requires varying depths of field, documenting your thought process and final images.

DO / DON'T

DO	DON'T
✓ Do experiment with different apertures to see their effects on depth of field.	✗ Don't set all exposure variables manually; use aperture priority or shutter priority mode.
✓ Do focus on the nearest eye when photographing people for optimal sharpness.	✗ Don't forget to check your focus points before shooting.
✓ Do practice using hyperfocal distance for landscape photography.	✗ Don't ignore the background; it can significantly affect the impact of your image.
✓ Do utilize natural light to enhance the quality of your images.	✗ Don't rush your composition; take time to frame your shot thoughtfully.
✓ Do take multiple shots at different apertures to compare results.	✗ Don't limit yourself to conventional subjects; experiment with various themes and scenes.

Reflection Questions

- How did changing the aperture affect the overall look of your images?
- What challenges did you face while trying to control depth of field?
- In what scenarios did you find shallow depth of field most effective?
- How did your understanding of depth of field evolve through this assignment?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use wide apertures (e.g., f/2.8 or wider) for a shallow depth of field.
- Select smaller apertures (e.g., f/11 or f/16) for a deeper depth of field.
- Experiment with different focal lengths to see how they affect depth of field.
- Position your subject at varying distances from the camera to observe changes in focus.
- Utilize focus points strategically to ensure your desired subject is sharp.

Creative:

- Isolate your subject by using a shallow depth of field to create an artistic blur in the background.
- Incorporate leading lines or foreground elements with a deep depth of field to enhance composition.
- Experiment with bokeh effects by using wide apertures and capturing lights in the background.
- Create a narrative by choosing the depth of field that best supports the story of your image.
- Play with angles and perspectives to see how they influence the perception of depth of field.