



Overview

This assignment focuses on understanding and applying white balance and color correction techniques in various lighting conditions. Students will explore how to set white balance effectively to achieve accurate colors and how to creatively manipulate color for artistic expression.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the relationship between light temperature and white balance settings.
- Learn how to use presets and custom settings for accurate white balance.
- Experiment with biasing color for creative effects while maintaining skin tone accuracy.

Related Reading

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

What Is White Balance In Photography	Colour Theory	Mixed Lighting
Kelvin Scale		

Before You Shoot

- Prepare a grey card or ExpoDisc for custom white balance setting.
- Choose a location with mixed lighting conditions to test different white balance settings.
- Ensure your camera is set to shoot in RAW format for maximum post-processing flexibility.
- Familiarize yourself with your camera's white balance settings and presets.
- Charge your batteries and ensure you have sufficient memory card space for extensive shooting.

Assignment Tasks

1. Use aperture priority mode at f/4 with ISO 200 fixed, shooting under tungsten light to observe color temperature effects.
2. Set your camera to custom white balance using a grey card in natural daylight, then take portraits to evaluate skin tones.
3. Capture a series of images in a shaded area using different white balance presets (Shade, Cloudy, Daylight) to see how it affects color.
4. Shoot in a room with mixed light sources (LED, tungsten) and manually adjust the white balance to match the key light for accurate color.
5. Using shutter priority mode at 1/250s with ISO 200 fixed, photograph a moving subject in fluorescent lighting to analyze color accuracy.
6. Create a before-and-after set of images showing the effect of adjusting white balance in post-processing on a single RAW image.

Stretch Tasks

- Develop a short project that requires shooting the same subject under varying lighting conditions and adjusting white balance creatively for each.
- Experiment with using a color checker chart to achieve precise color correction in various lighting conditions.



DO / DON'T

DO

- ✓ Do use a grey card or ExpoDisc for setting custom white balance.
- ✓ Do shoot in RAW format to retain the ability to adjust white balance in post-processing.
- ✓ Do compare images taken with different white balance settings to learn how light influences color.
- ✓ Do practice using white balance presets to quickly adapt to changing lighting conditions.
- ✓ Do create a color-themed series of images to explore the emotional impact of color temperature.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't rely solely on Auto White Balance without understanding its limitations.
- ✗ Don't forget to check your camera settings before shooting in mixed lighting.
- ✗ Don't shoot JPEG if you plan to make significant adjustments to white balance later.
- ✗ Don't ignore the impact of different light sources on your subject's color.
- ✗ Don't hesitate to experiment with unconventional white balance settings for creative outcomes.

Reflection Questions

- How does changing the white balance affect the mood and perception of your images?
- What challenges did you face while trying to balance colors in mixed lighting?
- In what situations do you find custom white balance settings most beneficial?
- How can understanding white balance improve your overall photography skills?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use Auto White Balance as a baseline for comparison against other settings.
- Set your camera to aperture priority mode with a fixed ISO of 200 for depth of field control.
- Utilize custom white balance settings to correct color casts using a grey card.
- Understand the Kelvin scale to adjust white balance manually for specific lighting situations.
- Practice balancing white in mixed lighting by focusing on the dominant light source.

Creative:

- Experiment with intentionally warm and cool white balance settings to create mood.
- Incorporate color gels on lights to see their effects on white balance and color perception.
- Use the white balance settings to highlight or mute colors in your subject.
- Explore the relationship between color temperature and emotional response in photography.
- Create a series of images that show the same scene under different white balance settings.