



Overview

This assignment teaches students how to effectively use histograms to evaluate exposure and make necessary adjustments in their photography. By focusing on exposure review through practical application, students will enhance their understanding of light and its impact on image quality.

Learning Objectives

- Understand how to read and interpret histograms for exposure evaluation
- Practice using aperture priority and shutter priority modes to control exposure
- Develop skills to adjust settings based on histogram feedback

Related Reading

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

What Is Dynamic Range In Photography	Exposure Bracketing A Guide For Photographers	Histogram Explained
Exposure Review	Tonal Balance	

Before You Shoot

- Familiarize yourself with how to display the histogram on your camera
- Set your camera ISO to a fixed value of 200
- Ensure that your camera is in either aperture priority or shutter priority mode
- Select a subject with varied lighting conditions for better histogram analysis
- Bring a notebook to record your observations and settings

Assignment Tasks

1. Use aperture priority mode at f/4 with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera set shutter speed, and take a portrait in natural light while analyzing the histogram for exposure.
2. Use shutter priority mode at 1/250s with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera set aperture, and capture a fast-moving subject, checking the histogram for any clipping.
3. Select a landscape scene with varying light and use aperture priority mode at f/8 with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera adjust shutter speed. Record how the histogram reflects the exposure.
4. Shoot in a dimly lit environment using shutter priority mode at 1/60s with ISO 200 fixed, allowing the camera to adjust aperture, and analyze the histogram for shadow detail.
5. Use aperture priority mode at f/2.8 with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera set shutter speed, to capture a close-up of a flower while monitoring the histogram for exposure balance.
6. Capture a sunset using shutter priority mode at 1/125s with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera adjust aperture, and evaluate the histogram for highlight preservation.

Stretch Tasks

- Experiment with different ISO settings while keeping the exposure variable on priority mode, and analyze how it affects the histogram.
- Capture a series of images in varying light conditions and create a portfolio of histograms, explaining the exposure decisions you made for each.



DO / DON'T

DO

- ✓ Do familiarize yourself with the histogram display on your camera.
- ✓ Do practice adjusting exposure compensation based on histogram feedback.
- ✓ Do take multiple shots of the same scene with different exposure settings to compare histograms.
- ✓ Do analyze the histogram after each shot to understand exposure adjustments.
- ✓ Do use different subjects and lighting conditions to broaden your exposure skills.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't shoot in manual mode with all settings specified; use priority modes only.
- ✗ Don't ignore the histogram; always check it after taking a photo.
- ✗ Don't solely rely on the camera's exposure meter; use the histogram for more accurate analysis.
- ✗ Don't hesitate to adjust settings if your histogram indicates overexposure or underexposure.
- ✗ Don't forget to keep your ISO fixed at 200 during this exercise.

Reflection Questions

- How did your understanding of exposure change after analyzing the histogram?
- What patterns did you notice in the histogram when shooting in different lighting conditions?
- How did using priority modes affect your creative choices in photography?
- In what ways did the histogram help you improve your exposure accuracy?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use the histogram to identify underexposed and overexposed areas in your images
- Learn to recognize the difference between clipping shadows and highlights in the histogram
- Practice adjusting exposure compensation based on histogram feedback
- Understand the importance of midtones in achieving a balanced histogram
- Experiment with different lighting conditions to see how they affect the histogram

Creative:

- Explore creative compositions that use dramatic lighting for more dynamic histograms
- Experiment with depth of field by changing aperture settings while monitoring the histogram
- Capture motion using shutter priority mode to create a sense of movement while checking exposure
- Use backlighting to see how it impacts your histogram and adjust accordingly
- Play with different subjects to see how they respond to exposure adjustments in the histogram