Overview

This assignment teaches you how to control depth of field through aperture settings, allowing you to isolate subjects or achieve comprehensive sharpness in your photographs. You'll experiment with various apertures and focus placements to understand their impact on your images.

Learning Objectives

- Understand how aperture affects depth of field.
- Learn to isolate subjects using shallow depth of field.
- Achieve a deep focus for landscapes and broader scenes.

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

- Select a location with diverse subjects (e.g., a park, street, or studio).
- Ensure your camera is set to Aperture Priority mode (A/Av) or Shutter Priority mode (S/Tv).
- Set your ISO to a fixed value of 200.
- Familiarize yourself with your lens' maximum and minimum aperture settings.
- Have a tripod or stabilizer ready for shots requiring slower shutter speeds.

Assignment Tasks

1. Take a portrait using aperture priority mode at f/2.8 with ISO 200 fixed, allowing the camera to set the shutter speed. Focus on the subject's eyes and ensure the background is softly blurred.
2. Photograph a landscape scene at f/16 with ISO 200 fixed in aperture priority mode, ensuring the foreground and background remain sharp.
3. Capture a close-up of a flower at f/4 with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera determine the shutter speed to create a pleasing blur in the background.
4. Use shutter priority mode at 1/500s with ISO 200 fixed to freeze motion while photographing a moving subject. Let the camera set the aperture to achieve the desired depth of field.
5. Take a shot of an urban scene at f/8 with ISO 200 fixed. Focus on a point a third of the way into the scene for a balanced depth of field.
6. Experiment with a creative angle on a subject using f/2.8 aperture in aperture priority mode, focusing on the nearest element while blurring the rest.

Stretch Tasks

- Create a series of images that showcase three different depths of field (shallow, medium, and deep) using a single subject in varying conditions.
- Try using hyperfocal focusing in a landscape shot at f/11 with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera set the shutter speed to maximize depth.

DO / DON'T

DO

- ✓ Do experiment with various aperture settings to see their impact on your images.
- ✓ Do focus on the nearest eye for portraits to enhance sharpness.
- ✓ Do use leading lines to create a compelling composition along with depth of field.
- ✓ Do take multiple shots at different apertures to compare effects.
- ✓ Do ask for feedback on your depth of field choices in specific compositions.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't rely solely on one aperture setting; explore a range.
- ✗ Don't forget to check your focus point; it should be deliberate.
- ✗ Don't shoot without considering how the background interacts with your subject.
- ✗ Don't overlook the relationship between distance and depth of field.
- ✗ Don't use manual mode for this assignment; stick to priority modes.

Reflection Questions

- How did varying your aperture influence the mood and focus of your images?
- What challenges did you face when trying to achieve desired depth of field?
- In what situations did you find a shallow depth of field most effective?
- How did your perspective or distance to the subject affect the depth of field?
- What new techniques did you discover while experimenting with depth of field?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Experiment with different f-stop settings to see their effect on depth of field.
- Use a wide aperture (e.g., f/2.8) for portraits to create background blur.
- Use a narrow aperture (e.g., f/16) for landscapes to keep the entire scene in focus.
- Explore the relationship between focal length and depth of field.
- Practice using hyperfocal distance for maximum depth in landscape shots.

Creative:

- Compose your shot to draw attention to your subject using shallow depth of field.
- Incorporate leading lines that guide the viewer's eye toward the focal point.
- Explore unconventional subjects that may benefit from depth of field manipulation.
- Capture the same scene with different apertures to compare results.
- Consider how changing your perspective affects depth of field and composition.