



## Overview

This assignment focuses on mastering the use of various filters in photography, specifically Neutral Density (ND), Graduated Neutral Density (GND), and Polarizing filters. Students will learn how to effectively incorporate these filters to enhance their images and control exposure in different lighting conditions.

## Learning Objectives

- Understand the purpose and application of ND, GND, and Polarizing filters.
- Develop skills to creatively use filters for improving image quality.
- Gain proficiency in using aperture or shutter priority modes while working with filters.

## Related Reading

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

[What Do Camera Lens Filters Do](#)

[Are Camera Uv Filters Worth It](#)

## Before You Shoot

- Select a variety of scenes that can benefit from filters (e.g., landscapes, water bodies, bright skies).
- Ensure you have ND, GND, and Polarizing filters in your kit.
- Plan your shoot during times of high contrast or bright sunlight.
- Familiarize yourself with the filter mounting process on your lens.
- Set your camera to either aperture or shutter priority mode.

## Assignment Tasks

1. Use ND filter in aperture priority mode at f/8 with ISO 200 fixed, allowing the camera to set shutter speed to create a silky water effect.
2. Set up a scene with a bright sky and land, using a GND filter in shutter priority mode at 1/250s with ISO 200 fixed to ensure balanced exposure.
3. Capture a landscape shot with a Polarizing filter in aperture priority mode at f/5.6 with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera adjust shutter speed to enhance colors.
4. Use a strong ND filter in shutter priority mode at 1/15s with ISO 200 fixed to capture motion blur of clouds or flowing water.
5. Shoot a reflective surface, such as a lake, with a Polarizing filter in aperture priority mode at f/11 with ISO 200 fixed to reduce glare and enhance reflections.
6. Experiment with a GND filter during sunrise or sunset in shutter priority mode at 1/60s with ISO 200 fixed to highlight the colors in the sky.

## Stretch Tasks

- Create a series of images using a combination of ND and GND filters during a single shoot to illustrate various lighting scenarios.
- Develop a short photo essay that showcases the impact of Polarizing filters on landscape photography.



## DO / DON'T

DO	DON'T
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Do experiment with different filter strengths to see their effects on exposure.</li><li>✓ Do keep your lens clean and ensure filters are free of smudges before shooting.</li><li>✓ Do review your images after each shot to evaluate the filter's impact.</li><li>✓ Do use a tripod when using ND filters to prevent camera shake during long exposures.</li><li>✓ Do consult your camera's manual on using priority modes effectively.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✗ Don't forget to adjust your white balance accordingly when using filters.</li><li>✗ Don't stack too many filters, as this can lead to image degradation.</li><li>✗ Don't use a polarizer in low-light situations, as it can reduce the amount of light entering the lens.</li><li>✗ Don't assume all filters are compatible with all lenses; check your gear.</li><li>✗ Don't neglect to practice with each filter type separately before combining them.</li></ul>

## Reflection Questions

- How did the use of each filter change the mood or tone of your images?
- What challenges did you encounter while using the filters, and how did you overcome them?
- In what scenarios do you find each type of filter most beneficial?
- How can you apply the skills learned from this assignment to future photography projects?

## Technical & Creative Focus

### Technical:

- Use ND filters to extend exposure times for motion blur effects.
- Utilize GND filters to balance exposure between the sky and land.
- Adjust the position of the Polarizing filter to control reflections and enhance colors.
- Check the histogram after taking a shot to ensure proper exposure with filters.
- Be aware of potential vignetting when using wide-angle lenses with filters.

### Creative:

- Experiment with different strengths of ND filters for varying effects on motion.
- Use GND filters to create dramatic skies in landscape photography.
- Incorporate Polarizing filters to enhance the saturation of colors in nature shots.
- Try layering filters for unique effects, but be mindful of image quality.
- Capture the same scene with and without the filter to compare results.