



Overview

This assignment focuses on mastering aperture and depth of field in photography, teaching you how to control what is sharp and what is blurred in your images. You'll explore how different aperture settings affect the depth of field and learn to isolate subjects effectively or create expansive landscapes.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the relationship between aperture size and depth of field.
- Learn to use aperture priority mode to control depth of field.
- Experiment with subject distance and focal length to achieve desired sharpness.

Related Reading

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

[What Is Depth Of Field](#)

[What Is Aperture In Photography](#)

[Bokeh Basics](#)

Before You Shoot

- Ensure your camera is set to aperture priority mode (A/Av).
- Fix your ISO at 200 to maintain consistent exposure.
- Choose a variety of subjects, including portraits and landscapes.
- Familiarize yourself with your lens's maximum and minimum aperture settings.
- Prepare a notebook to record your settings and observations during the shoot.

Assignment Tasks

1. Use aperture priority mode at f/2.8 with ISO 200 fixed, photographing a portrait to achieve a soft background blur.
2. Switch to f/16 in aperture priority mode with ISO 200 fixed, capturing a landscape that includes both foreground and background details.
3. Take a close-up shot of a flower using f/4 in aperture priority mode with ISO 200 fixed, ensuring the flower is sharp while the background fades.
4. Photograph a street scene at f/5.6 in aperture priority mode with ISO 200 fixed, focusing on a subject in the foreground while keeping the background slightly blurred.
5. Experiment with a group shot at f/3.5 in aperture priority mode with ISO 200 fixed, focusing on the nearest subject to see how depth of field affects group clarity.
6. Capture an urban scene at f/8 in aperture priority mode with ISO 200 fixed, making sure both foreground and background elements are in focus.

Stretch Tasks

- Create a series of images using different apertures (f/2.8, f/5.6, f/11) on the same subject to illustrate the effect of depth of field changes.
- Use hyperfocal distance calculations to take a landscape photograph where everything from a set distance to infinity is in focus.



DO / DON'T

DO

- ✓ Do experiment with different apertures to see their effects on depth of field.
- ✓ Do focus on the nearest important detail for landscapes to maximize depth of field.
- ✓ Do use a tripod for stability, especially in low light when using smaller apertures.
- ✓ Do take notes on your settings and outcomes to inform future shoots.
- ✓ Do review your images to assess the effectiveness of your depth of field choices.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't shoot in fully manual mode for this assignment; use aperture priority instead.
- ✗ Don't assume all portraits need shallow depth of field; experiment with deeper settings too.
- ✗ Don't neglect lighting conditions; ensure they are suitable for your chosen aperture.
- ✗ Don't forget to consider composition alongside depth of field.
- ✗ Don't rush your settings; take time to evaluate how changes affect your images.

Reflection Questions

- How does the choice of aperture influence the story you want your photograph to tell?
- What did you learn about the relationship between subject distance and depth of field?
- How might your approach to depth of field change in different lighting conditions?
- In what situations did you find shallow depth of field most effective, and why?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use wider apertures (like f/2.8) for a shallow depth of field to blur backgrounds.
- Use smaller apertures (like f/16) for a deeper depth of field to keep more of the scene in focus.
- Experiment with different focal lengths to see how they affect depth of field.
- Adjust your distance from the subject to see its impact on depth of field.
- Use hyperfocal distance to maximize sharpness in landscape photography.

Creative:

- Isolate your subject with a shallow depth of field to draw attention.
- In landscape photography, try to include foreground elements with a deeper depth of field.
- Use depth of field creatively to convey a sense of space and distance.
- Experiment with bokeh effects in background elements for artistic images.
- Consider the emotional impact of sharp versus blurred elements in your compositions.