



Overview

This assignment teaches photographers how to effectively utilize different metering modes to achieve accurate exposure in various lighting conditions. By practicing with Matrix, Centre-weighted, and Spot metering, students will learn to place tones deliberately and confirm their exposure using feedback tools.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the different metering modes and their appropriate applications.
- Effectively use exposure compensation to correct for challenging lighting situations.
- Utilize histograms and highlight warnings to verify exposure accuracy.

Related Reading

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

What Is Metering In Photography	Understanding Light	Exposure Bracketing A Guide For Photographers
What Is Dynamic Range In Photography		

Before You Shoot

- Familiarize yourself with your camera's metering mode settings.
- Set your camera to a fixed ISO of 200.
- Gather a variety of subjects with different lighting conditions (e.g., a backlit scene, a snowy landscape, and a dark portrait).
- Ensure your camera battery is fully charged and memory card has ample space.
- Plan to shoot in a location with varying light throughout the day.

Assignment Tasks

1. Capture a portrait using Centre-weighted metering in Aperture Priority mode at f/4 with ISO 200 fixed, letting the camera set the shutter speed.
2. Photograph a snowy landscape using Matrix metering in Aperture Priority mode at f/8 with ISO 200 fixed, applying +1 EV compensation to avoid grey snow.
3. Shoot a backlit subject using Spot metering in Shutter Priority mode at 1/250s with ISO 200 fixed, ensuring the subject is well-exposed.
4. Experiment with a dark scene such as a shadowy alley using Matrix metering in Aperture Priority mode at f/5.6 with ISO 200 fixed, applying -1 EV compensation.
5. Take a series of shots of a brightly lit stage using Centre-weighted metering in Shutter Priority mode at 1/500s with ISO 200 fixed to freeze motion.
6. Capture a sunset scene using Spot metering in Aperture Priority mode at f/2.8 with ISO 200 fixed, observing the changes in exposure as the light fades.

Stretch Tasks

- Create a photo essay using different metering modes for each shot, explaining the choice of mode for each image.
- Challenge yourself to shoot in a high-contrast environment and only use Spot metering, documenting the results and adjustments made.



DO / DON'T

DO

- ✓ Do review your camera's manual to understand how to switch between metering modes.
- ✓ Do take multiple shots using different metering modes for the same scene to compare results.
- ✓ Do regularly check your histogram to ensure proper exposure.
- ✓ Do practice adjusting exposure compensation in various lighting conditions.
- ✓ Do take notes on how different modes affect the final image.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't rely solely on one metering mode; experiment with each to understand their strengths.
- ✗ Don't ignore the importance of exposure compensation, especially in challenging lighting.
- ✗ Don't forget to check the histogram after each shot for highlight clipping.
- ✗ Don't shoot in manual mode while practicing metering; use priority modes to focus on metering skills.
- ✗ Don't assume the camera's meter is always correct; trust your judgment and make adjustments.

Reflection Questions

- How did the choice of metering mode affect the exposure in your photographs?
- What challenges did you face when using Spot metering, and how did you overcome them?
- In what scenarios did you find exposure compensation particularly useful?
- How did the feedback from the histogram influence your shooting decisions?

Technical & Creative Focus

Technical:

- Use Matrix metering for general scenes to achieve balanced exposure.
- Switch to Centre-weighted metering for portraits to prioritize the subject's tones.
- Utilize Spot metering for high contrast situations, focusing specifically on the subject.
- Adjust exposure compensation by +1 to +2 EV for bright scenes and -1 to -2 EV for dark scenes.
- Check the histogram after each shot to ensure no highlight clipping occurs.

Creative:

- Experiment with how different metering modes influence the mood of your photographs.
- Try using exposure compensation creatively to enhance the brightness of your subject against a challenging background.
- Explore the impact of shadows and highlights on your composition by adjusting metering modes.
- Use Spot metering to isolate details in a busy scene, drawing attention to your subject.
- Create a series of images that tell a story using different metering modes to highlight various elements.