

Introduction to Basic Photography

Photo Assignment # 1: "Exposure" Camera metering experiments, plus "Wild Card"

Due Thursday Sept 11

What is due?

- 1) 12 jpeg digital images, 1080 pixels on the long edge, placed in the Assignment_1 folder on our vico_2521_ws server space at: [afp://photoserver.viscom.ohiou.edu](http://photoserver.viscom.ohiou.edu)
- 2) A digital "contact sheet" in PDF format showing at least 50 of your camera raw images. Please place it also on our class server space.
- 3) If you photographed anyone under 18 years of age or a friend/model in a private location (not in public view), include a signed parental model release. A hard photocopy or PDF on the server is OK.

This is an exercise to help you understand in-camera metering and exposure controls. Try to shoot this assignment early or late in the day, or on an overcast day. Avoid middle of the day sunlight. Use an ISO setting of 400. Shoot in full manual mode - no automatic settings for now. Shoot in Camera-Raw format on your camera. You'll convert the files to jpegs in post-processing. This is a bit complicated, so read it through a couple of times before you start shooting.

Exposure, Part 1 - Light on Light:

This is a technical exercise, no need to seek creative pictures for this part of the assignment, although you can if you wish.

Compose a scene of a person dressed in white clothing against a white background. A sheet or painted wall is fine. Fill the frame with the person and the background.

Meter the scene with your in-camera meter, and use the suggested shutter speed with your lens set at f5.6. Before you take that first frame, hand your subject an index card with your camera settings written on the card, example: 1/125th @ f5.6. Also, for this first frame, have the person hold up one finger to designate this as your starting point.

Now you are going to bracket exposures with your shutter speeds. Shoot the same scene and adjust your exposures in 1-stop increments down to 2 full stops below the original exposure, (darker). You'll be using progressively faster shutter speeds (bigger numbers on the "dial").

Write the new exposures on a card for each frame and hand each one to the subject to be included in the photo. This will take 2 additional frames.

Go back to your first original setting. Now, repeat the above procedure and adjust your exposures in 1-stop increments up to 2 full stops above the original exposure, (brighter). You'll be using progressively slower shutter speeds, (smaller numbers). Remember to write the exposures on the index cards. This will take another 2 frames.

You should now have 5 exposures, the metered exposure, 2 stops over and 2 stops under.

List of Whole Stop Apertures

1 1.4 2 2.8 4 5.6 8 11 16 22

List of Whole Stop Shutter Speeds

1 1/2 1/4 1/8 1/15 1/30 1/60
1/125 1/250 1/500 1/1000 1/2000

Exposure, Part 2 - Dark on Dark:

This is also a purely technical exercise. Creativity can be saved for later if desired, but it can be fun to incorporate.

Now you are going to try the same thing again, but this time the subject will be dressed in black against a dark wall or background. And, rather than bracketing with shutter speeds, you'll bracket with lens apertures.

Meter the scene with your in-camera meter, and use the suggested shutter speed with your lens set at f8. Before you take that first frame, hand your subject an index card with your camera settings written on the card, example: 1/60th @ f8. Also, for this first frame, have the person hold up one finger to designate this as your starting point.

Now you are going to bracket exposures with your f-stops. Shoot the same scene and adjust your exposures in 1 stop increments down to 2 full stops below the original exposure, (darker). You'll be using progressively smaller f-stops (bigger aperture numbers). Write the new exposures on a card for each frame and hand to the subject. This will take 2 additional frames.

Go back to your original exposure setting. Now, repeat the above procedure and adjust your exposures in 1 stop increments up to 2 full stops over the original exposure, (brighter). You'll be using progressively larger f-stops (smaller aperture numbers). Remember to write the new exposures on the index cards and hand to the subject. This will take another 2 frames.

You'll now have 5 additional frames of black on black, each looking different exposure-wise.

5 white on white frames, 5 dark on dark frames for a total of 10 frames.

Wild Card:

Here's where you can have some creative fun. You have 40 frames remaining to get to the required 50 frames for this assignment. Shoot anything that interests you that looks good. Be creative.

Submitting the Files:

In your folder, place the "metered exposure" white on white frame plus 4 other exposures, the "metered exposure" black on black frame plus 4 others, and 2 exposures from the Wild Card creative warm-up - for a total of 12 jpegs in your Assignment_1 turn-in folder.

Re-name your files as: LastName_FirstInitial_exp_01.jpg

Examples: Jones_R_exp_01.jpg Jones_R_exp_02.jpg Jones_R_exp_03.jpg

Re-name the PDF contact sheets with at least 50 images in a similar way: Jones_R_exp.pdf

Grading:

This set of photos is worth 100 points out of the 1200 total points for the class. The exposure exercises will be judged on how well the technical instructions were followed. The Wild Card photos will be evaluated on technical merit (appropriate sharpness, exposure, appropriate color, etc.) as well as on the creative vision of the photographer.