

# Introduction to Visual Communication Skills: Photography

## Photo Assignment # 2: "Exposure" Camera metering experiments, plus "Wild Card"

Due Sept 21

### What is due?

- 1) 12 jpeg digital images, 2000 pixels on the long edge, placed in the Assignment\_2 folder on our vico\_1021\_ws folder on our server at: smb://shared.ohio.edu/communication/viscom-classes.
- 2) 300 pixel/inch digital "contact sheets" in jpg format showing at least 50 of your camera raw images. It will take two sheets to hold this many. Place this also on our server space.
- 3) A signed parental model release if you photographed anyone under 18 years of age or someone photographed in a private place. A hard photocopy or 200 pixel/inch JPG (@full size) 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. Note - submit these files as-is. Some will be underexposed, some overexposed. Do not tone them.

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 (note: your lighting, and therefore your exposure, may be different). 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 with less exposure, and 2 with more.

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#### 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 the Wild Card part of this assignment if desired, but it can be fun to incorporate into the technical part.

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.

You can now exit manual mode and return to your preferred shooting mode for the next part.

## **Wild Card:**

Here's where you can have some creative fun. You have 40 frames remaining to get to the required 50 frames minimum for this assignment. Shoot anything that interests you that looks good. Be creative. Choose 2 interesting pictures to submit.

## **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 exercise. There should be a total of 12 jpegs in your Assignment\_1 turn-in folder.

Re-name your files as: LastName\_FirstInitial\_exp\_1.jpg [Example: Jones\_R\_exp\_1.jpg]

The jpg contact sheets, sized to hold 35 pictures max per page, would be named Jones\_R\_exp\_contact\_1.jpg, etc.

## **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 2 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.