

Introduction to Visual Communication Skills: Photography

Photo Assignment # 3: Depth of Field (DOF) - Using apertures

Due October 5

What is due?

- 1) 8 jpeg digital images, approx. 2000 pixels on the long edge, placed in the Assignment_03 folder on our vico_1021_ws folder on our server at: smb://shared.ohio.edu/communication/viscom-classes.
- 2) 300 pixel/inch digital "contact sheet(s)" in jpg format showing 35-70 of your camera raw images. 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 creative use of depth of field.

Try to shoot in nice light, early or late in the day, or in pools of interesting light such as near a window or door. Use an ISO setting appropriate for the light level in which you are shooting. Use a high enough shutter speed to avoid camera shake, or use a tripod. Shoot in full manual mode or in Aperture Priority mode to be able to directly select apertures. Think about how the aperture chosen will affect the "look" of the picture. Use the suggested camera metering. Using auto focus with focus lock is OK. Use Camera-Raw format on your camera. You'll convert the files to jpegs in post-processing.

The Shoot:

Parts 1 and 2 of this assignment are purely technical, and will be scored on successfully managing the camera controls to produce the desired result. Part 3 will be scored on how well the aperture selected enhanced the artistic message - 1/2 technical and 1/2 artistic weight.

1. Shoot a stationary subject that has considerable depth and shows layers of objects, such as a line of fence posts or a row of trees or cars. Use a normal to short telephoto focal length for your camera, between 35mm and 85mm equivalent. A 50mm equivalent would work well.

A foreground object in the scene should be close enough to you that you can take one step forward and touch it. Now, focus on something in the middle ground, beyond the foreground object. Once you focus, do not change focus, but shoot this scene at 3 different apertures – wide open, a middle f-stop, and fully stopped down. The settings might be similar to f/2.8, f/8, f/16 or f/22. (Three total pictures from Part 1).

*Be sure to adjust your shutter speed accordingly as you change f-stops to maintain equivalent exposures. Example: f/2.8 @ 1/1000th; f/8 @ 1/125th; f/16 @ 1/30.

2. Repeat the above task in a different location or different subject. (Three total pictures from Part 2).

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

3. Shoot any other creative picture that is enhanced by use of shallow depth of field (DOF,) at a wide aperture, such as at f/2, or f/2.8. (One picture needed)
4. Shoot any other creative picture that is enhanced by use of great depth of field, at a closed down aperture such as at f/16. (One picture needed)

Submitting the Files:

In the Assignment 3 folder, place the selected individual JPGs plus the JPG contact sheet named as follows:

Re-name your selected files as: LastName_FirstInitial_dof_xx.jpg

Examples: Jones_R_dof_1.jpg Jones_R_dof_2.jpg Jones_R_dof_3.jpg etc.

The jpg contact sheet, sized to hold 35 pictures max per page, would be named Jones_R_dof_contact.jpg

Grading:

This set of photos is worth 100 points out of the 1200 total points for the class. Scores for Parts 1& 2 will be based upon technical controls only, and Parts 3 & 4 will be scored equally on technical and creative merits.