

# Introduction to Visual Communication Skills: Photography

## Photo Assignment #4: Shutter Speed - Stopping action / blurring motion

Due Oct 24

### What is due?

- 1) 10 jpeg digital images with metadata (copyright & keywords), approx. 2000 pixels on the long edge, placed in the Assignment\_4 folder on our vico\_1021\_ws folder on our server at: smb://shared.ohio.edu/communication/viscom-classes.
- 2) A print of your two favorite pictures from this assignment.
- 2) 300 pixel/inch digital "contact sheets" in jpg format showing 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 photo-copy or 200 pixel/inch JPG (@full size) on the server is OK.

This is an exercise to help you better understand shutter speeds, and their impact on the appearance of photographs.

Unless the light is dim, setting a low ISO speed on your camera may help you utilize some of the slower shutter speeds required in this exercise.

Shoot in Camera-Raw format on your camera. You'll convert the files to jpegs in post-processing.

### The Shoot:

Try to be as creative as possible. Make this fun.

1. **How slow can you hand-hold?** Let's find out! Make a series of photos of any STATIONARY subject or object. Use the camera hand-held, and make a series of exposures at 1/2, 1/4, 1/8, 1/15, 1/30, 1/60, and 1/125th of a second while concentrating on holding the camera steady. Be sure to change your f-stop for each shutter speed change (exposure equivalents). Use a focal length that is approximately normal for your camera, perhaps 35mm or 50mm (equivalent). Keep a paper record of your exposures and place an exposure combination note in the scene. Grading will be on the carefulness of this experiment, not on your shutter-limited ability or on the aesthetics.
2. **Panning:** Shoot a MOVING subject (bicyclist, runner, skater, dancer, sports) using a slow shutter speed, somewhere between 1/8th and 1/30th of a second, and pan the camera to make the moving subject sharp against a blurred background. A slightly longer focal length may be helpful. Make this interesting, not just a mindless document of a scene. Remember the *Creative Devices* handout to help add visual interest.

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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

3. **Subject Blur:** Shoot an interesting scene with subjects or people moving from side to side within the scene. Keep your camera very steady by using a tripod, backpack, bracing against a wall, bag of rice or beans, or other device. Use a shutter speed of 1/15th or slower to blur the subject against a sharp background. Make this picture interesting, not just a technical exercise.
4. **Freeze Motion:** Shoot another scene, as above, with a subject / object moving from side to side, (not moving directly toward or away from you) but this time use a high shutter speed, 1/250th or higher. If you are using manual metering, remember to adjust your f-stops for a proper exposure, so watch your meter. Make this picture interesting.

Submit your photos to the server as usual.

Seven photos from Part 1, and one photo each from Parts 2, 3, 4. Ten total photos.

### Printing

Note that the modest (2000 pixels) jpeg file typically requested for submission to the server *will be insufficient for an optimum quality print*. You must either print the original from Lightroom or open a full-size version of the file into Photoshop. Your original should contain many more pixels for better print quality.

If printed from Photoshop, you will probably have to use the Image>Image size dialog box to reduce the printing dimensions (inches) to fit the 8.5x11 letter-size paper. When resizing, do NOT check Resample, or you might end up with too few pixels. When the picture fills the printing paper adequately (~10 inches on the long dimension), you should have a minimum of 200 pixels/inch resolution. Most cameras today can do that easily.

Note that on our printers, it is impossible to print to cut-edge of the paper. You must allow some margin, and most students allow about 1/2" around the picture area. Otherwise, part of your picture may be cut-off. The usual print size is therefore 10 inches on the long dimension for 11 inch long paper.

If you are using Photoshop CC, instructions for printing to the VisCom RIP are found at:  
[http://www.ohio.edu/people/schneidw/2400/printing\\_photoshop\\_cc\\_4900.html](http://www.ohio.edu/people/schneidw/2400/printing_photoshop_cc_4900.html)

If you promise prints to your subject in return for their time, be sure to follow through on your promise.

Prints for this assignment are *due at the beginning of class*. There will be no printing allowed during class critique time.

### Submitting the Files:

In the Assignment 2 folder, place the selected JPGs plus the PDF contact sheet named as follows:

Re-name your selected files as: LastName\_FirstInitial\_ss\_xx.jpg

Examples: Jones\_R\_ss\_1.jpg                  Jones\_R\_ss\_2.jpg                  Jones\_R\_ss\_3.jpg    etc.

The jpg contact sheet, sized to hold 35 pictures max per page, would be named Jones\_R\_ss\_contact.jpg

### Grading:

This set of photos is worth 100 points out of the 1200 total points for the class. The photos in Part 1 will be evaluated on technical merit, not aesthetics. The remaining photos will be weighted 75% for technical merit, and 25% for aesthetic merit. Try to match the expected blur vs. sharp to the subject matter, and don't shoot the same subject / object for Parts 2, 3, 4.