



# MINIMALIST BASIC PHOTOGRAPHER

## ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW

In this assignment you will use your SLR camera's manual settings to achieve an accurate exposure. It is highly recommended that you take photographs for the assignment under very bright light in order to avoid unintentional blur from camera shake with slow shutter speeds and so that you are not limited in the range of apertures and shutter speeds available to you. Don't worry we'll learn more about shutter speeds later for now you are just trying to take a picture that isn't too dark and isn't too light.

Don't forget to focus. Sometimes it is easy to spend so much attention on setting your exposure that you forget to focus. Dial in your exposure, focus, shoot. Again dial in your exposure, focus, shoot. One more time, say it with me, dial in your exposure, focus, shoot.

## WHAT YOU WILL MASTER

Manual control over aperture and shutter speeds  
Ability to use your camera's light meter to create a proper exposure  
Ability to manually focus your camera

## ASSIGNMENT CHECKLIST

**Part 1:** This section deals with the aperture. You will need to use the aperture noted and then adjust the shutter speed according to your light meter for optimal exposure.

- Still Object about 2 Feet or closer. Use F4 or F5.6 then set your shutter speed.
- Still Object about 2 Feet or closer. Use F8 then set your shutter speed.
- Still Object about 2 Feet or closer. Use F16 or F22 then set your shutter speed.
- Still Object about 3-4 Feet away. Use F4 or F5.6 then set your shutter speed.
- Still Object about 3-4 Feet away. Use F8 then set your shutter speed.
- Still Object about 3-4 Feet away. Use F16 or F22 then set your shutter speed.
- Still Object about 6 Feet or more. Use F4 or F5.6 then set your shutter speed.
- Still Object about 6 Feet or more. Use F8 then set your shutter speed.
- Still Object about 6 Feet or more. Use F16 or F22 then set your shutter speed.

**Part 2:** The section deals with the shutter. You will need to use the shutter speed noted and then adjust the f-stop according to your light meter for optimal exposure.

- Still Object about 2-3 Feet away. Use 1/60 (hand-held / no tripod) then set your aperture. Slightly lower light will probably work best for this.



# MINIMALIST BASIC PHOTOGRAPHER

- Still Object about 2-3 Feet away. Use 1/30 (hand-held / no tripod) then set your aperture. Slightly lower light will probably work best for this.
- Still Object about 2-3 Feet away. Use 1/15 (hand-held / no tripod) then set your aperture. Slightly lower light will probably work best for this.
- Moving Object about 5-10 Feet away. Use 1/60 then set your aperture.
- Moving Object about 5-10 Feet away. Use 1/250 then set your aperture.
- Moving Object about 5-10 Feet away. Use 1/1000 then set your aperture.
- Moving Object about 10-25 Feet or more. Use 1/60 then set your aperture.
- Moving Object about 10-25 Feet or more. Use 1/250 then set your aperture.
- Moving Object about 10-25 Feet or more. Use 1/1000 then set your aperture.
- Moving Object about 20-30 Feet away. Use 1/125 and use the panning technique with your subject.
- Moving Object about 20-30 Feet away. Use 1/30 and use the panning technique with your subject. Slightly lower light will probably work better like dawn or dusk.

**Part 3:** Now just have fun with your camera and see what you can do using manual exposure settings!

## REFLECTION

Did any of your pictures turn out too dark or too light. If so what could have happened? Common problems; (1) you set your exposure while pointing at one scene, but took the picture of a different scene or slightly changed your framing, (2) the exposure needle wasn't in the middle when you took the picture, (3) your exposure compensation was somehow set to a negative or positive number (check your manual for this), (4) if your camera is used it might have some problems.

Which 3 images were your best and which 3 images were your worst and why do you think that was? If you don't know the exact right answer that is OK, just see what ideas you can come up with.

Choose one photograph that didn't turn out that great, what could you have done differently to make it turn out better. Again if you don't know the exact right answer that is OK, just see what ideas you can come up with.

How could you use exposure to do something creative with your camera?

In part 1 did you notice any changes in your pictures with regard to how much was in focus or whether your picture was more blurry as you varied the aperture settings with each distance requirement? What were they? We'll get into the whys later on.

In part 2 did you notice any changes in your pictures with regard to how much was in focus or whether your picture was more blurry as you varied the shutter speed settings with each distance requirement? What were they? We'll get into the whys later on.

