

Assignment 2: Basic camera operation

Unless otherwise stated, shoot all photos with P mode setting. Always use your camera's meter to get a correct exposure of the scene before you set up your shot. Shoot at outdoor under direct skylight (cloudy day is okay). Use ISO 400 except the last exercise. Shoot between 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

1. Metering practice:

Ask a subject to stand in front of a location with bright reflective color as a background or showing the bright sky as the background. Place your subject in the middle of the frame and she/he should fill less than 50% of the frame. Shoot as follows:

- A. Matrix/Evaluative metering. Take 5 shots with N, +.5, +1, +1.5, +2
- B. Spot/Partial metering. Take 5 shots with N, +.5, +1, +1.5, +2
- C. Center-weighted metering. Take 5 shots with N, +.5, +1, +1.5, +2

2. Focus locking practice:

Use a lens with focal length within 55mm or 105mm to take this shot. Ask a subject to stand at 3 steps (6 feet) from you with background objects located at 10 steps (20 feet) away from him/her. Carefully place your subject to the right or left side in your frame so that no any body parts of the subject showing at the center of the frame. Set your center point as the focus point. Take photos as follow:

- A. Without moving the camera, take it just as the way you want it to be framed.
- B. Move the camera with its center point focus on your subject by half-press the shutter first, with the shutter button half-pressed, reframe the shot to frame your subject to the side and then press the shutter all the way down to finish taking the photo.

3. Focus mode practice:

Have your subject stands at about 20 - 30 feet (10 –15 steps) away. When you are ready to take the shot, have your subject starts walking or jogging towards you. Shot at about every second interval until your subject is almost bump into you. Shoot with a lens at focal length within 55mm or 105mm. Set your lens to AF. Make sure you are under good lighting with shutter speed over 1/200s. If lighting is not enough, use a higher ISO setting.

- A. Use one-shot (fix point) focusing for Canon camera. (Nikon is S)
- B. Use continuous focusing (AI-servo) for Canon camera. (Nikon is C)

4. White balance:

Take this shot at indoor setting and have your camera on tripod or rest on a platform. Place your subject under tungsten (incandescent) lighting environment, avoid window light or fluorescent light hitting on the subject. You should see orange color casting on your subject's face. Take a half body shot with the following setting:

- A. Use AWB (auto white balance) setting.
- B. Use daylight white balance setting.
- C. Use tungsten white balance setting.

5. ISO setting:

Shoot this at outdoor in shade or indoor but near big windows. Avoid any direct sunlight on subject's body (e.g. at the shady side of a building). Have your subject perform quick body motion such as walking or hands & legs movement. Don't worry about the slow shutter speed. Take the following photos while the action is ongoing:

- A. Use ISO 100.
- B. Use ISO 400.
- C. Use ISO 800.
- D. Use ISO 1600.

Turn in procedure:

Download all your photos to the "Assignment 2" folder in the turn-in folder. Describe and explain your findings for the above 5 shooting exercises, discuss each situation (A, B, ...). Such as what works, what doesn't work. And why? Be sure to state the file No. of the photos you use to describe your findings. Type your findings in a letter size paper and turn in to your instructor after your presentation on next week when we first meet.