

Assignment: Depth of Field, Technical Portfolio

The following sections in *A Short Course in Digital Photography, 1e* relate to this assignment:

Pages: 22-23, 24-25, 40, 42-47. Also see Chapter 9: Seeing Like a Camera

Depth of Field is also described as the range of critical focus. This range covers the zones in the negative, from near to far, that are in sharp, or acceptable focus. The two types of depth of field covered in this assignment are Long and Short.

Depth of Field can be controlled by the focal length of the lens, camera distance from the subject, and by the aperture of a camera. This assignment is restricted to depth of field controlled by Aperture.

Two digital files are due for this assignment - one Long Depth of Field and one Short Depth of Field.

Long Depth of Field

(if you have a zoom lens - set "zoom" wide)

- Requires small aperture openings such as f/22 or higher- Use your minimum aperture!
- Detail must be present in all areas of the image. This includes foreground, middle ground, and background (all grounds required). Everything in the image must be in sharp focus.
- Scene should start @ 5 feet from camera and extend no more than 25 feet from the camera.
- Focus on middle ground object – good distance 8-12 feet from camera.

Short Depth of Field

(if you have a zoom lens - set "zoom" narrow)

- Requires large aperture openings - Use your maximum aperture!
- Only the subject/middle ground should be in sharp focus.
- You should see the transition into & out of the focal plane.
- You may wish to create a scene that is closer to the camera, especially with a zoom lens or dSLR.
- Focus on middle ground object – good distance 2-4 feet from camera.

Objectives

- To familiarize the student with the aperture of the camera, including control of the appearance of space and depth within an image

Preview Days – Have Example (unedited) Digital Files Ready for Class Pre-Critique

February 20 (can show updates on later Preview dates as well)

Helpful Tips & Things to Remember

- Your camera has an optimum focusing range for objects between 5 –25 feet away
- Proper focus is essential, especially for short depth of field
- Proper exposure is crucial to producing a good image. Since your aperture is fixed for this assignment, remember to adjust your shutter speed to achieve the correct exposure
- Avoid the obvious and the cliché – search for a new interpretation
- Get close enough so that your intended subject fills the viewfinder
- Think about your position (point of view) in relation to your subject
- Remember to focus your images & use the correct exposure ratio