

Light, Shadow and Mood

Objectives:

Concentrate on looking at the way light renders objects and produces shadows. Notice how shadows produce lines, shapes and forms. Think about how shadows and highlights can be an interesting compositional element within an image. Also, notice how shadows can conceal a subject or part of a scene.

Observe, respond to, and photograph light in the environment around you. Your images may be as abstract or representational as you wish. Pay particular attention to the technical processes that are necessary to the successful completion of this assignment. Focus your camera carefully, expose and process your image files properly, set your white balance appropriately for the scenes lighting sources, carefully control the contrast in your finished images, etc.

Hints:

1. Remember, direct light sources produce strong, crisp, hard edge shadows. Diffused light produces soft edge shadows. Think about when to use direct or diffused light.
2. Of course, the sun is a very good direct light source. Think about different times of day and how different positions of the sun create shadows.
3. Please do not use any on camera or off-camera flash, ambient lighting only.

Requirements:

1. You will shoot at least 36 exposures (images) for this assignment.
2. You will need to bracket your exposures. (6 scenes using N-1, N, N+1 bracket = 36 exposures minimum).
3. You will need to turn in one finished image for each of the required parts of this assignment, 6 total images. In addition you will need to turn in your finished images on your website with the images saved as .jpg files that are no smaller than 1200 pixels on it longest side.
4. Label the finished image files with the assignment category.

Assignment: *light, shadow and mood*

1. At least 1 scene where the **Subject is half illuminated in light, and half in shadow.**
2. At least 1 scene using **Light and Shadow that creates a pattern over the subject.** Think about environments that can pass light through and create pattern. Examples: certain fabrics such as lace, cloth with holes in it, blinds, series of wood beams, etc.
3. At least 1 scene that makes the **Subject emerging from darkness.** This means that the majority of the frame should be dark; with the subject only slightly illuminated. These are "low key" images with a majority of dark scene contrast.
4. At least 1 scene that makes the **Subject emerging from brightness.** This means that the majority of the frame should be white; with the subject only slightly shadowed. These are "high key" images with a majority of bright scene contrast.
5. 2 additional image scenes focusing more closely on any of the previously listed illumination scenarios. These should be a further exploration - expanding on the mood that the image conveys through the elements of light and shadow.

Vocabulary:

- **Direct Light:** unimpeded light traveling directly from the source to the subject.
- **Reflected Light:** defined in two ways. First is light that is bounced off of a surface outside or inside the frame. Second is light bouncing from the subject to the camera.
- **Diffused Light:** has passed through a translucent material to modify and soften the light.
- **Radiant Light:** travel directly from the source into the lens.
- **Lighting Contrast:** related to the various intensities of illumination through out the scene. Light sources only.
- **Subject Contrast:** the relative surface textures and tonalities of the object being photographed. Evaluated by its zone system placement.
- **Scene Contrast:** the overall range of illumination and reflectivity of the scene. The combined effects of both lighting contrast and subject.
- **Brightness Range:** related to exposure meter readings and is expressed in the different f-stop range through out the scene. Sometime referred to as the dynamic range of the scene.